

US and Iran in secret deal over hostages

The first details emerged yesterday of a remarkable secret package deal between America and Iran to secure the release of US hostages...

From Robert Fisk, Nicosia. Iranian regime, carrying with him a Bible signed by President Reagan, a box of cakes for Iranian officials...

and at least once since then - was trying to negotiate the release of three US hostages held in Lebanon...

Secret deals 11. Leading article 17.



Royal head in the clouds: The Duchess of York on her first solo flight yesterday. (Photograph: Julian Herbert)

Baker in direct appeal to heads

The dispute between the second largest teachers' union and the Government escalated yesterday when Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education, took the unusual step of writing personally to every head teacher in Britain to explain his pay offer...

BBC reply today on bias claim

The BBC will today issue a sharply-worded reply to complaints by Mr Norman Tebbit, chairman of the Conservative Party, about its coverage of the United States bombing raid on Libya last April.

Russians agree to terrorism talks with UK

The Soviet Union yesterday accepted a British initiative for talks on joint efforts to combat terrorism. British and Soviet experts are expected to have their first meeting before the end of the year, probably in London.

The flying Duchess goes solo

The Duchess of York yesterday took to the air for the first time on her own, just four weeks after starting to learn to fly.

Tomorrow

Nott's landings



Sir John Nott argues that we should remember the Suez failure, not the Falklands success, when planning the future defence of Britain.

Le Grange goes in Pretoria reshuffle

Mr Louis Le Grange, South Africa's powerful Minister of Law and Order, was removed yesterday in a Cabinet reshuffle announced by President Botha...

Portfolio

The Times Portfolio Gold daily competition prize of £4,000 was won yesterday by Mr J.D. Rothwell of south-west London.

TIMES PROPERTY

2,658 houses for sale. There are ten pages of property advertisements today with 2,658 houses up for sale.

TIMES BUSINESS

Maxwell stake. Mr Robert Maxwell has increased his stake in McCormac, the printer and publisher, to 17.2 per cent after buying at prices above those on the stock market.

TIMES SPORT

Tight finish. White Crusader, the British challenger in the America's Cup yacht races, beat Canada II by less than a third of a second.

TIMES SPORT

Table with columns for Home News, Law Report, Overseas, Letters, and other categories with associated page numbers.

Yard faces inquiry after TV claims

A provincial police team was called into Scotland Yard yesterday to investigate serious allegations involving a London gangster and his relationship with Yard detectives.

Networks in deal on US poll

From Michael Binyon, Washington. Polling in the US mid-term elections got off to a slow start yesterday, as poor weather and voter apathy threatened to produce one of the lowest turnout in years.

Reserves down £474m

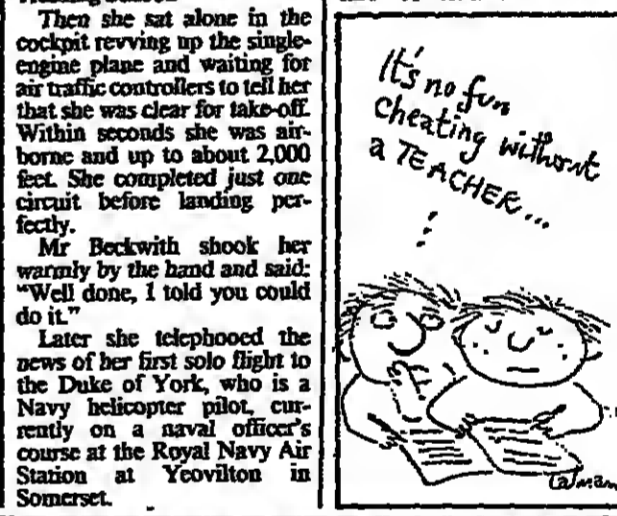
Britain's gold and foreign currency reserves slumped by \$668 million (£474 million) last month - the biggest fall in four years - as the Bank of England propped up the pound.

End of Russian line nowhere in sight

From Christopher Walker, Moscow. As the Soviet Union prepares for Friday's 69th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution, there is mounting frustration that Mr Gorbachev's economic reforms have failed to make any impression on one of the greatest bogymen of Soviet life - queuing.

Networks in deal on US poll

With a three-hour time difference between the East and West coasts, the polls in California are still open long after they close in the East. If a party hears it is doing poorly in the East, it can mobilize special resources to bring out the last-minute vote in California and thus redress the balance.



Advertisement for Premier Loan, featuring a grid of benefits: 1. UNCONDITIONAL PAYMENT GUARANTEE, 2. FREE REDUNDANCY COVER, 3. NO FEES OR CHARGES, 4. FUNDS FOR ANY PURPOSE, 5. LOW APR NOW ONLY 18.5% (variable), 6. IMMEDIATE DECISION, 7. DIAL 100 AND ASK FOR FREEPHONE PORTFOLIO, 8. PHONE NOW.

NEWS SUMMARY

Man's artificial heart replaced

Surgeons at the Papworth Hospital, near Cambridge, replaced the artificial heart in a male patient with a donor's heart in a four-and-a-half hour operation yesterday.

Bishop off course

A hot air balloon flight by the Bishop of Hereford, the Right Rev John Eastaugh, marking the start of a diocese tour, ended embarrassingly yesterday when he was blown into the neighbouring diocese of Worcester.

40 Butlin staff go

Butlins is to dismiss 40 of the 112 permanent staff at Somerwest world, its holiday camp in Minehead, Somerset.

Jury clemency plea

A jury's appeal to a judge yesterday saved the son of Mike Reid, the comedian, from going to jail for shooting dead his best friend. The jurors, sitting at Chelmsford Crown Court, found Mark Reid, aged 28, guilty of the manslaughter of Ian Rogers, aged 17, but made a special plea for clemency which was accepted by Mr Justice Drake.

Poll rules tightened

The Civil and Public Services Association has tightened its rules to prevent irregularities in the return of the election for a general secretary.

Newspaper 'blunder'

More than 3,000 readers of The Daily Telegraph yesterday each thought they had won a Seychelles holiday in the newspaper's Passport Control competition.

Suicide of fraud case bank chief

A bank manager shot himself after inquiries began into an alleged £3 million fraud involving one of his customers and a government department, Lincoln Crown Court was told yesterday.

Theatres facing cash crisis

The Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) has no financial reserves to meet a crisis and its future will remain uncertain unless the Government restores the real value of its subsidy next year, Mr Geoffrey Cass, its chairman, said yesterday.

Tunnel job worth '100,000 man-years'

By Rodney Cowton Transport Correspondent

The construction of the Channel tunnel and associated activities will create about 100,000 man-years of employment in Britain, Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Transport, said yesterday in a vigorous defence of the project.

project would be vastly offset by the advantages. As a result of the proceedings of the House of Commons select committee, which has been hearing objections to the project, a number of important safeguards had been put in place.

on the short sea crossings. Cross Channel traffic had quadrupled in the past 20 years. The additional choice represented by the tunnel and the spur of competition to existing modes of air and sea travel to improve efficiency and reduce fares would result in more people and goods crossing the Channel.

taken entirely by the private sector, thus demonstrating that the free enterprise economy can still respond to great opportunities without the prop of government underwriting," he said.

ment of breaking its undertaking to allow objectors to the Channel tunnel to present their case to the select committee considering the Bill.

New push to check 'lenient' sentences

By Frances Gibb Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Government is expected to resurrect its controversial proposal giving the Attorney General a right to refer apparently over-lenient sentences to the Court of Appeal, as a way of resolving a serious split between ministers and judges.

It is now almost certain to drop its original proposal for the Lord Chief Justice's sentencing guidelines to be codified and published on a statutory basis by the Judicial Studies Board.

That proposal has been strongly opposed by senior judges and by Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, although it was favoured by Home Office ministers.

But the Government is determined to be seen to be tackling the problem of sentences that appear too lenient.

The proposal for a right of referral to the Court of Appeal for an opinion - which would have no power to change the sentence - was contained in the Prosecution of Offences Bill last year and thrown out after opposition in the Lords.

It is now emerging as the option likely to counter least opposition from the ministers involved, although it may still run into opposition in the Lords.

Ministers hope there is still time for the proposal to be contained in the Criminal Justice Bill expected late next week.

The option was one of the three canvassed by the Government in its criminal justice White Paper earlier this year. The second and stronger option was for a right of referral by the Attorney General, with the Court of Appeal having power to increase sentences.

However, the Government fears that this would lay the prosecution open to a charge of involvement in sentencing. The same applies to the option favoured by the Lord Chief Justice, for a prosecution right of appeal over apparently lenient sentences.

MPs divided on issue of privately-run British jails

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

A Commons select committee is divided on the political issue of whether privately-run prisons should be introduced in Britain.

The committee visited three "correctional institutions" run by the Corrections Corporation of America (CCA).

Conservative members of the home affairs committee returned from a fact-finding trip to America last month convinced that such institutions provided an answer to the chronic overcrowding and considerable financial drain of British prisons.

Sir Edward Gardner, the committee chairman, described the trip as "one of the most revealing I have ever undertaken," while another Tory, Mr John Wheeler, said he was "profoundly impressed."

At the last count there was a total prison population of 47,307 in accommodation built for just under 41,000, with each inmate costing an average of £36 a day to keep.

According to Sir George, the CCA had cut roughly five dollars off the 25 dollars a day it cost state prisons to keep a prisoner, and had done so while improving standards.

However Labour members who went on the trip are saying privately that the concept of making profit from prisoners is "obscene" and that they could never endorse a report calling for privately-run prisons.

Faced with the ultimate sanction of losing the contract, the CCA scrupulously observed stringent conditions laid down by the state and its prisons were subject to frequent and unannounced inspections. It provided rehabilitation opportunities for prisoners and an "after-care" service once they were released.

They acknowledge that the American system is one of "management contract", not "privatisation" but both Tory and Labour MPs admit that there is "little scope for compromise."

The committee will continue its inquiry in this country by taking evidence from the Home Office and prison authorities.



Police attempting to dislodge a protester from a cruise missile launcher after the convoy was halted yesterday on its way back to Greenham Common.

Missile convoy ambushed

By Peter Davenport, Defence Correspondent

A convoy of cruise missile launchers returning to the Greenham Common airfield from an exercise was ambushed yesterday by protesters who cut brake pipes and caused white paint on the vehicles.

They claimed their actions had immobilised the leading launcher bringing the entire convoy to a halt for more than an hour and forcing US personnel to remove a red box which, they said, contained confidential instructions about the missiles.

However, the Ministry of Defence said later the attackers had severed the brake hoses on two equipment trailers only.

The ambush, involving about 100 members of the Cruise Watch organization and local peace protesters happened at Ison yesterday as the convoy moved slowly up a steep hill on the A303 between Amesbury, Wiltshire, and Andover, Hampshire.

Wiltshire police said four people were charged with obstruction and two with breach of the peace.

Mr Rob Westing, a member of Cruise Watch, which has been responsible for several other incidents with convoys, said: "It is another example of how unarmed and untrained civilians can interrupt a Nato exercise. I hate to think what could happen if determined terrorists decided to attack this convoy."

The ministry said the convoy was taking part in a routine training exercise and was not carrying live missiles.

'New rules will reduce detections'

The fall in detection rates for juvenile crime is due to the rule requiring adults to be present during police interviews, a police superintendent claims in this month's Criminal Law Review (Our Legal Affairs Correspondent writes).

Det Supt Donald Taylor, co-ordinator of the south-west regional crime squad, also predicts there will be a similar drop in adult detections as a result of new codes of practice on police questioning and the right of suspects to have a solicitor with them when interrogated.

Mr Taylor says that many more offences were admitted by juveniles when questioned by police before 1978, when the new rules were introduced.

Reported crime rose by 47 per cent between 1978 and 1985, but total detections rose by only 34 per cent. That was in spite of adult detections increasing by 49 per cent.

Oftel criticizes Telecom service

By Jonathan Miller

The Government's Office of Telecommunications is preparing to release a report on the quality of telephone service that is strongly critical of British Telecom.

The report is based on monitoring of the telephone network by 2,000 volunteers recruited by Oftel's 164 Telephone Advisory Committees.

The statistics from the monitoring exercise form the first official measurement of BT's technical performance as it does not disclose details of the quality of service it provides to its 20 million customers.

Another 15 per cent of BT's lines are served by cross-bar exchanges, based on technology invented in 1889.

A BT spokesman said yesterday it would not be possible to comment on Oftel's report until it had been studied.

Arts funding

Theatres facing cash crisis

By Gavin Bell, Arts Correspondent

ready trying to absorb a significant reduction in the real value of a carefully established level of subsidy.

reached its decision about the Playhouse on Monday.

Mr Cass said the effect of restricted increases in the past two years had been to reduce the real value of the subsidy to well below a minimum required level. "If the real value of that base is not restored in 1987-88, we must warn governors that the prospects for the future will once again be distressingly difficult."

A successful appeal in 1982 had bought time to explore new arrangements, on the basis that the university could not commit itself to keeping the Playhouse in business beyond next July.

The company staged a record number of 36 productions, including 14 new plays and adaptations, during the year in Stratford-upon-Avon, London and on tour.

The need for substantial economies in all its activities make it more than ever necessary for the university to close its open-ended commitment to make up the Playhouse's deficit year after year," Mr Roberts said.

Anglo-Irish agreement

Concern over tactics widens Unionist split

By Richard Ford

The divisions between Northern Ireland's two Unionist parties deepened yesterday as they organized protests to mark the first anniversary of the Anglo-Irish agreement.

Mr Paisley's office has booked the Ulster Hall in Belfast for a "dedication service" on Monday night, but

he denies that people are being "mobilized for anything illegal."

The Official Unionist leadership has not been involved in any of the preparations for such a mobilization, and yesterday Mr Molyneux said he had no reason to believe that his colleagues in the Unionist family were involved as a party in organizing such an army.

There are others within the OUP who believe that their allies in the fight against the agreement are operating behind their backs with other loyalist groups to organize resistance to the deal.

Mr Molyneux denounced the idea of any citizens' army as being worrying to all right-thinking people.

NEWS INTERNATIONAL

TERMINATION PAYMENTS OFFER

Last Friday, October 31, Mr Rupert Murdoch wrote to employees who formerly worked at Gray's Inn Road, Bonville Street and related premises, but who withdrew their labour and were subsequently dismissed.

The offer would expire on November 10. If you were a former employee of the Company and have not yet received your letter detailing the offer, apply immediately in writing for further information to:

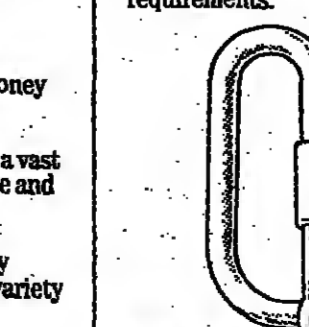
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November 4 1986

PARLIAMENT

Labour onslaught on Britain's star wars research

Britain's participation in Star Wars research and the Government's nuclear policy came under attack during question time...

DEFENCE

offered to get rid of all strategic and nuclear weapons within 10 years, the British Government had been consulted on that offer...

Of course, during the summit, the discussions had to be between those present. The British Government had always tried to get arms reductions...

Mr Beith: Worried about the SDI "shield". would be able to have a part in that process, but not taking only one part of it on its own.

Mr Younger: The position of our independent nuclear deterrent is that it should be available as a last resort in case of any circumstances in future in which a last resort response was needed from this country.

Mr Davies: Has Britain been made clear that they abided within the ABM treaty and, therefore, no nuclear activities in space would be permitted as part of the research into the SDI programme.

Mr Younger: He is correct in suggesting that had President Reagan agreed to a convention which the Soviet Union and Mr Gorbachev tried to lay down at Reykjavik, he would have given away the right of the West to research into these matters while leaving the Russians free to continue theirs.

Mr Younger: Mr Marlow may well be right on that. But if the British Government had followed the policies as advocated by the Labour Party and others, we would be left with the Soviet Union not prepared to negotiate on any aspect of cruise missiles and we would have the SS20s pointed towards us from western Europe with nothing to replace them.

Mr Younger: The position of our independent nuclear deterrent is that it should be available as a last resort in case of any circumstances in future in which a last resort response was needed from this country.

Mr Younger: We have always made clear that we consider the possession of an independent deterrent by this country is essential to our security. That has been the view of Labour as well as Conservative governments.

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Mr George Younger: Keeping British researchers involved in nuclear defence planning

that it is government policy that under no circumstances is it prepared to see the United Kingdom give up its deterrent and therefore we will maintain it, no matter what the US does, while there are strong conventional forces in the USSR?

'Absurd' report by union man denied

EMPLOYMENT

No targets for reductions in the number of benefit recipients were being laid down for claimant advisers in employment offices, Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Employment, said yesterday in a private notice question from Mr John Prescott, chief Opposition spokesman on employment.

Mr Clarke said the latest absurd allegation had arisen out of press reports in which a trade union official had quoted from the minutes of a meeting where a middle-rank officer had expressed himself in a way which did not have ministerial approval.

unemployed for work but rather the availability of work for the unemployed? Mr Clarke said the new form had been tried out for months without complaint.

He had said, in reply to a question last week, that if they saved less than 10 per cent by finding people who were not entitled to unemployment benefit it would cover the cost. He was in no way implying that any target was being set down.

Mr Andrew Rowe (Mid Kent, C) said one of the consequences of the new "Restart" programme was that very large numbers of long-term unemployed people had been amazed to find so many opportunities open to them.

Women deacons measure passes

Deaconesses had a substantial share both in the conduct of public worship and in the general life of the Church of England, the Bishop of Rochester, the Right Rev David Seely, said in the House of Lords when he successfully moved that the Deacons (Ordination of Women) Measure, should be presented for Royal Assent on Friday.

The Measure, which would for the first time allow women deacons to conduct marriage services, would create no serious problems in the relationship of the Anglican Communion with either the Orthodox Church or the Roman Catholic Church, whose members had been watching the progress of the Measure with considerable interest.

He emphasized that the Measure would not allow women to become priests. That would be something for future consideration and debate if and when Lady Seear (L) welcomed the Measure which she said gave recognition to the work, qualifications and value of women in the church.

Missiles protest attacked

An ambush by anti-nuclear protesters on a cruise missile convoy returning to Greenham Common from exercises on Salisbury Plain was condemned by a Tory MP during Commons questions.

Mr Patrick McVain-Wilson (New Forest, C) said the ambush of a military convoy in the early hours of the morning would cause great concern among people of this country. He asked Mr John Stanley, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, if he was satisfied that it could be prevented in the future and whether the perpetrators had been apprehended.

Thatcher defends Tebbit letter

PRIME MINISTER

The Prime Minister said during question time that the complaint by Mr Norman Tebbit, chairman of the Conservative Party and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, against the BBC was the straightforward one of whether the corporation was encouraging a charter and licence agreement.

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, had asked her to "condemn the manic efforts of Mr Tebbit to subordinate the BBC by his means", adding "Or is he acting under her orders?" Mrs Thatcher said that the complaint was not for the Home to discuss, but for the BBC to reply to.

Mr Kinnock: She is incredible. Is she saying that her creature - he is definitely that - is acting in any straightforward fashion at all? This is a tortuous attempt to intimidate the BBC because it is not manipulating the news in the way she and Mr Tebbit wish, Mrs Thatcher: It may be that Mr Kinnock has read the submission, but from what he has said, it does not seem to me that he has.

If he had, he would have seen that it was in reference to the terms and conditions under which they broadcast that the complaint was made. It is a matter of fact, the government of the BBC to consider. It is only the governors who can decide on and reply to that complaint. It was a fairly measured complaint and if he reads it he will see that.

Mr Kinnock: I have read it. It is a matter of fact, the government of the BBC to consider. It is only the governors who can decide on and reply to that complaint. It was a fairly measured complaint and if he reads it he will see that.

Poll blow for the Alliance

By Nicholas Wood Political Reporter

The Alliance's hopes of using the Knowsley North by-election as a platform for a general election suffered a severe setback last night with the publication of an opinion poll carried out in the Labour Merseyside stronghold.

It predicts that the centre party will trail home a poor second to Labour with the Conservatives in third place. According to the survey, Labour will get 67 per cent of the vote next Thursday, the Alliance 22 per cent and the Conservatives 10 per cent.



Mr David Tripper, an Employment junior minister (left), speaking with the Tory candidate at Knowsley North, Mr Roger Brown, yesterday.

Hospital, Liverpool, will inherit something approaching the 17,000 majority achieved by his predecessor Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk. The projected Tory vote, although pitifully small, will not cause great dismay at Conservative Central Office because it is nevertheless 4 per cent above the trend established in the 12 by-elections since the 1983 general election.

Building office is closed

By Richard Evans Political Correspondent

A council direct labour organization which made a loss of £3.3 million inside three years was closed yesterday on government orders.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, said yesterday that a report disclosed the full extent of losses incurred on new building works by the London Borough of Newham's directly employed labour force.

Tebbit attack 'is having its effect'

By Our Political Reporter

Mr Norman Tebbit's attack on the BBC for alleged bias in its coverage on the Libyan bombing raid is already paying dividends, a government minister said yesterday.

The corporation has begun to take additional care to ensure that its reporting of political issues is fair and balanced, according to Mr David Tripper, an under-secretary at the Department of Employment.

10-minute speech plan

By Our Political Reporter

An experiment enabling the Speaker to limit backbench speeches to 10 minutes during the middle hours of over-subscribed debates was declared a success yesterday.

As predicted in The Times last week, the procedure select committee produced a report saying that the use of time limits had engendered "a greater sense of fairness in those major debates in which many members wish to take part" and had guaranteed the Speaker's ability to call a

Move on work time rejected

By Our Political Reporter

An attempt to reverse a decision by the Commons to abandon a clause on working hours, added by the House of Lords to the Sex Discrimination Bill, was rejected by 36 votes to 30 - Government majority, 26.

He argued that the House had been correct when it originally debated the Government and inserted the clause into the Bill because there was a danger that women would be exploited.

STANDARD... THE TIMES... NOVEMBER 5 1986

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Emergency work is not all blood and anguish — carpentry skills may be needed

Examining the facts at Guy's casualty ward

It is 8.42pm in the casualty ward of Guy's Hospital and Dr David Walsh has just completed the first hour of a shift which will not end until 8.30 next morning.

Behind a curtain a boy aged 15 is having his hand dressed after a fireworks accident and a queue of 12 people wait patiently in the corridor for their turn.

A nurse is looking for a saw to cut a walking stick down to size. "I'll never make a carpenter," she said with a wry smile.

Senior Staff Nurse Judy Morgan, aged 26, managed to grab a moment or two's respite to ponder the truths and fictions of the television series, *Casualty*, which looks like being the latest battleground in the current war between the Government and the BBC.

Nurses and doctors around the country have criticised the programme's emphasis on constant love affairs, drinking and drug taking by hospital staff on duty, while Westminster's fury is directed at what ministers see as the script's left-wing condemnation of the NHS and the economies being imposed upon it.

"We don't spend our time popping pills or swigging gulps of 'whisky,'" Nurse Morgan said.

The BBC's drama series, *Casualty*, which has just ended, attracted a Saturday night audience of nine million viewers.

It angered doctors and nurses at the hospital where it was researched and prompted allegations of anti-Government bias from ministers.

William Greaves spent a night in one of London's busiest casualty wards to compare fact with fiction.

"It's a stressful job and we all have our social problems like anyone else, but we don't bring them to work with us and we don't shout them out to all and sundry in the coffee room.

"Nurses are human beings first and we behave like human beings. We're not angels — we eat, drink and sleep like anyone else.

"Nurses do go out with doctors, of course they do, but they go out with policemen and firemen and bank managers, too. Whoops..."

Suddenly, the doors of the ward crash open and a man carrying a young woman in his arms shouts "Emergency, emergency!" at the top of his voice. A second woman runs behind with her face in her hands, screaming: "She can't breathe, someone help her, please!"

For the sufferer and those that worried for her it was an incomprehensible moment of undiluted fear. For the staff in



Sister Diana Smith (left) prepares a plaster for Sarah Allbury, while Student Nurse Mandy Cavin comforts a distressed woman (Photograph: Alan Weller).

casualty it was another incident — a crisis which would be met with practised efficiency.

Casualty receptionist Carmel Rowe took the name and age of the woman and entered: "Difficulty in breathing" into the register.

The other entries made it a typical enough list — acute asthma; a 31-year-old man who had injured his right arm in a fall; a woman in labour; another with an infected finger; someone from Kent with abdominal pain; an ear infection; lacerated finger and injured right ankle.

"The waiting time is about two to three hours at the moment," Carmel said. "Everybody who comes here gets seen, but the surprising thing is how many people come with injuries and illnesses which are really routine — much better taken to their doctor's surgery."

"They have to wait hours because every urgent case which comes in gets seen immediately and pushes them further down the queue."

The lights of an ambulance alert the staff back into action stations, but this time there are no signs of alarm. An elderly man in a dressing gown is wheeled in by two ambulance men.

They know where to go and one of them returns to the desk to give name and address. "CVA," he says succinctly, and the entry is made.

"Cardiac Vascular Accident," Carmel explains. "It means stroke really, but we use the initials because if the patient or relatives overhear they tend to get frightened."

The time ticks by and the queue gradually shortens in the corridor.

Nurses making coffee in the rest room and heating up the dinners they have brought with them all agree that the biggest inaccuracy in any television representation of casualty wards is the speed with which things happen and the constant evidence of blood and gore.

Serious road accidents, knifings and other manifesta-

spending are really beginning to bite.

"Hospital stocks have been reduced so much that we have gone weeks without any slings and we've been without tubular dressings for four or five weeks now.

"Just imagine it — a casualty department without slings. It isn't the hospital's fault, but it all adds to the workload.

"We're also terribly short of beds. We've got 12 bays here and half the time they are filled with people who have to be admitted, but are waiting for a bed in a ward.

"Our record is a patient stuck behind a curtain for 7½ hours, just because there was nowhere else to put him. It isn't just their inconvenience, it could mean that if a really serious multiple road crash comes in all our accommodation for treating the casualties is taken up by people who shouldn't be here at all."

By 3.30am Dr Walsh is just beginning to relax. He has been working single-handed without a break for six hours and the queue has almost disappeared.

"We're down to the alcoholics anonymous cases now," he jokes, ruefully listening to the obscene language coming from a drunken man, who has brought his equally drunk girlfriend in with a cot bed.

"We're too busy for politics and by and large we get by," he says. "But it's the nursing staff who are really feeling the strain and particularly the student nurses — they get all the lousy jobs because there's no one else to do them."

House price rises remaining steady

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

House prices increased in Britain by 13.6 per cent during the year to the end of October, according to the latest house price index published by the Halifax Building Society yesterday.

This is the same as the plateau of increases reached in July and August. The figures show that in the past three months, house prices have increased by 2.9 per cent compared with 2.5 per cent in the three months to the end of September, but remain well below the peak of 5.4 per cent reached in the three months to June.

New house prices increased by 11.4 per cent in the year to October compared with 10.7 per cent in September.

As a result of the increase, house price inflation remains at four times retail price, inflation and nearly double that of average earnings.

The Halifax states that the average price of all houses stands at £41,558, while the average for new houses is £46,780. The average price paid by first-time buyers in October was £31,420, 13.4 per cent higher than a year ago.

For London the rate of increase remains at an annual 25 per cent, similar to that for the past five months. In the South-east the annual increase has been 20 per cent.

The Halifax forecasts that house price inflation in 1987 will remain in double figures.



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FROM THE ROCK MARKET TO THE STOCK MARKET.

Search for Barton girl's body

Detectives are hoping that Ronald Barton, the convicted murderer, will show them the exact place where he hid the body of his stepdaughter, Keigley.

Barton, who was jailed for life last week for killing the girl, aged 14, told prison staff that he dumped her body in an overgrown cemetery in Stoke Newington, north London.

Police with dogs started their search of the 32-acre cemetery on Monday and yesterday a team of 60 police cadets arrived to help.

Det Supt Charles Farquhar, leading the investigation, said a full search of the rambling graveyard would take three days.

"The day after he was sentenced Barton told a member of the prison staff that he had hidden her body here," Mr Farquhar said.

"We had hoped to get him to show us exactly where he had hidden her."

Chemical threat to barn owls

Conservationists fear that barn owls are facing yet another threat to their diminishing population in the shape of a new and potent agricultural poison.

More than a dozen of the increasingly rare birds have been found dead in the Ipewich and Woodbridge area of Suffolk in the past few days.

Mr Reg Snook, a Department of the Environment wildlife inspector, yesterday said: "All the signs point to poison".

Laboratory tests are being carried out to determine why they died, but it looks as though farmers could be using a new, much more powerful pesticide which owls are taking in.

Barn owl numbers in East Anglia have been drastically reduced because of increased traffic, traps, and the disappearance of their natural habitat.

MP's benefit plea for young athletes

By Angela Johnson

The future of some of Britain's best sporting hopes may rest on a case being put to the House of Commons this week to stop unemployed amateurs losing their social security benefit while competing abroad.

Mr Alan Williams, Labour MP for Swansea West, plans to argue the case of the Welsh athlete, Karen Hough, in an early day motion for a new benefit rule, which would allow athletes to claim supplementary benefit while competing in overseas championships.

Karen, aged 18, of Bryony-Bryn, Killey, Swansea, is one of Britain's top junior javelin throwers. She lost her £47 benefit for two weeks while competing in the European Championships in Stuttgart because the DLISS ruled that she was unavailable for work.

She was told by her local benefit office that her attendance at competitions abroad could not receive any money because she could not attend job interviews.

Mr Williams appealed to Mr Nicholas Lyell, Under Secretary at the Department of Health and Social Security, but was told in a letter that the rules could not be relaxed.

Karen said: "I was very upset when I returned, to find that my money had been stopped and I had to sign on again, but this is not uncommon among young athletes."

"Fortunately I was able to turn to my parents for financial support, but many full-time amateurs find it difficult to cope and are unable to attend international events. Yet it is this experience which is needed to help us become medal winners."

Mr Tony Ward, of the British Amateur Athletics Board, said: "The current law hits at the athletes of the future, who at present are struggling to find enough money to live on while dedicating themselves to improving their skills."

Thatcher defends Tebbit letter

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Civil Servants responding to demands for more efficiency

By Richard Evans, Political Correspondent

The Civil Service, so often criticized for being bureaucratic and unwieldy, is well on the way to becoming a much more efficient government machine, a report disclosed yesterday.

The optimistic assessment comes after a detailed inquiry by Sir Gordon Downey, the Comptroller and Auditor General, into how Whitehall has responded to ministerial attempts to improve the Civil Service's effectiveness and achieve better value for money from government spending which totals more than £100 million.

His investigation concentrates on how individual departments reacted to a financial management initiative (FMI) launched in May 1982 by the Prime Minister, whose underlying aim was to encourage a more managerial approach to government business.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher's efficiency drive was intended to improve the allocation, management and control of resources throughout central government.

Thirty-one government departments were required to

review their systems of management responsibility, financial accountability and control.

They all ended up changing their practices or introducing new systems.

Sir Gordon looked specifically to see if the Whitehall shake-up would help Civil Service managers to secure better value for money.

"My broad conclusions are that real progress is being made in the development of suitable systems and there are not serious shortcomings in the departments examined," Sir Gordon said.

Individual government departments believe the efficiency initiative had results in greater cost-consciousness.

But Sir Gordon concluded that the new management systems had not been in place long enough for their full effect on gaining value for money to become apparent.

He added: "It is important to continue the work aimed at demonstrating not only that the FMI improves the quality of management but also that this improvement in turn results in better value for money."



Lining up for the annual Whitbread Book of the Year award are the five winners of the different literary categories, from left: Jim Crace, Peter Reading, Andrew Taylor, Richard Mabey, and Kazuo Ishiguro (Photograph: Harry Kerr).

Solicitor questioned on £20m funds

A solicitor was questioned at a bankruptcy court yesterday about what had happened to £20 million of clients' money which went through an account he held.

Mr Anthony McGrath, aged 48, of Corcoran Road, Surbiton, Surrey, whose statement of affairs showed liabilities of more than £3 million, said that he found it incredible that he should be asked about the money.

Mr Jaffray Mogg, assistant official receiver, told him at Kingston Bankruptcy court: "From August 1984 to January 1985, sums totalling £20,489,804 went into your clients' account and it ended up with a zero balance."

Mr McGrath, who had practised at Tolworth, Surrey, under the name of Whelton, replied: "I find this question astounding. The money belonged to clients. It came in and went out. If you are suggesting that clients' money has been misapplied I find it incredible."

Mr McGrath claimed his shareholding in a management consultancy was worth more than £1 million but, pressed by Mr George Davey, for the public trustee, he agreed that this depended on a forthcoming contract.

The public examination was adjourned until February 24.

Whitbread Awards

Tales of mystery and imagination contend for prize

By Philip Howard

A novel about those mysterious wrapped in original enigmas, old and new Japan; a moral allegory-fantasy about a seventh-century out-of-this-world continent; the biography of the country curate who became England's most famous naturalist; a mystery adventure connected with the miners' strike; and some sharp, sardonic poems about contemporary Britain are the five category winners in the Whitbread Literary Awards.

The authors receive £1,000 each. On 13 January one of the five will be voted the Whitbread Book of the Year, and its author given a further £17,500, which makes the Whitbread Britain's most valuable literary prize.

The five category winners announced yesterday are:

Novel

An Artist of the Floating World, by Kazuo Ishiguro (Faber, £8.95).

The time is 1948, the place Nagasaki. An ageing Japanese painter, famous before the world earthquake, looks back over his life in painstaking and painful assessments of his career that coincide with the rise of Japanese militarism.

Whatever mistakes it may have made in the past, Japan now has a chance to make a better go of things. He can only wish these new and alien young Japanese well. As delicate as a Japanese water-colour, this novel, exposing the roots of a complex culture, was on the short list for the Booker Prize. Ishiguro was born in Nagasaki in 1954, came to England when he was six, was educated at the universities of Canterbury and East Anglia, and writes beautifully and idiosyncratically in English; his Japanese is just about good enough to manage comic. Since his first novel, *A Pale View of Hills*, was given awards and international acclaim, Ishiguro has been one of our brightest young novelists writing in English.

First Novel

Countess, by Jim Crace (Heinemann, £4.95).

In a mythical, science-fiction world of the seventh continent, past and present are discontinuous, and custom and progress form a dangerous flux. Seven stories interlock to explore the irreconcilable forces implicit in all cultures: a tribe on heat like dogs; a calligrapher loses his skill; a runner pitched against a horseman; a love story between a young girl and a soldier; a geologist searches for rare minerals. The techniques are bold and modern. The seven narratives combine to form a new world that seems strangely familiar. Jim Crace was born in 1946, and brought up in north London. He read English Literature as an external student at London University, worked in Sudanese, educational television, and became a freelance journalist and script-writer. He was awarded a writing bursary by the Arts Council, and was writer in residence at the Midlands Arts Centre.

Biography

Gilbert White. A Biography of the Author of *The Natural History of Selborne*, by Richard Mabey (Century, £14.95).

The language of birds is very ancient, and, like other ancient modes of speech, very elliptical: little is said, but much is meant and understood. Gilbert White's account of the intimate life of the birds and other wildlife around his parish 200 years ago is one of the best loved nature books ever written.

Both scientist and poet, and an intellectual in touch with the philosophical and cultural issues of his age, White deter-

Children's novel

The Coal House, by Andrew Taylor (Collins, £5.95).

Alison is 13. Her mother has just died. Her dad has bought a house in the North, 300 miles away from the world she knows. She is full of resentment, and determined to hate the rambling old Coal House, home of the Victorian pit owner. In the overgrown garden she meets Tommy, cheerfully trespassing, and begins to discover clues about the past owners of the house, and the tragedy in their lives.

Through her new friend, Tommy, she comes to identify with the local miners on strike, and becomes involved in their struggle. But there is another interloper lurking around the Coal House.

Alison and her father discover in their separate ways the secret of the stalker in the woods. Andrew Taylor was born in Scotland, but now lives in the Durham countryside. He is a marketing consultant, and has written several stage and television plays. This is his first novel for children.

Poetry

Stet, by Peter Reading (Secker & Warburg, £5.95).

Harsh, violent verses come to terms with life in contemporary Britain in the front line. They are clever, witty, inventive, slangy, funny, and serious.

As the poet says in one of them: "Musel-sing the Grotty (scant alternative)". He says of his poetry: "Art has always struck me most when it was to do with coping with things, hard things, things that are difficult to take."

If you want art to be like Ovaltine, then clearly some artists are not for you. Ovaltine, he is not, but vodka, meths, and occasionally strychnine.

Peter Reading was born in 1946, and trained as a painter at Liverpool College of Art. After a spell as a teacher, he returned to Liverpool to lecture in the Department of Art History. He was given the Cholmondeley Award in 1978, and the Dylan Thomas Award in 1983.

He lives in Shropshire, and has had various jobs there including working in an animal-feed mill.

Proxime accesserunt in the short lists - in alphabetical order by author were:

- Novels: *Gabriel's Lament*, by Paul Bailey; *Contre-Jour*, by Gabriel Josipovici; *The Shrapnel Academy*, by Fay Weldon.
- First novels: *The Song of the Forest*, by Colia Mackay; *Seeing Things*, by Frances Thomas.
- Biography: *G.K. Chesterton*, by Michael Finch; *Road to Victory*, by Winston S. Churchill 1941-1945, by Martin Gilbert; *The Lamberts*, by Andrew Motion.
- Children's novel: *Isaac Campion*, by Janini Howker; *Return of the Indian*, by Lynne Reid Banks; *Howl's Moving Castle*, by Diana Wynne Jones.
- Poetry: *Terra*, by Ken Smith.

Woman says her sons are not racist

A woman who could lose her London council flat because her two sons allegedly abused their Bengali neighbour hours denied yesterday that her family were racists.

Mrs Maria Hawkins told Clerkenwell County Court that both her sons had gone to schools that had mixed racial groups and had "many ethnic friends".

Camden council is seeking to repossess Mrs Hawkins's three-bedroom flat in the Blenkinsbury tower block, Dombey Street, on the Tyald Close estate in Holborn, central London, under the Housing Act 1980.

It is alleged that Frank Hawkins, aged 17, and his brother, Charles, aged 26, carried out a five-year campaign of racial harassment against Mr Abdul Ali and his wife and six children.

Frank Hawkins is also accused of punching one of Mr Ali's sons and smashing windows at their flat with a bench.

Although Mrs Hawkins is not accused of racial harassment herself, Camden wants

to evict her because it claims that as the tenancy holder she is responsible for the behaviour of people living in the flat.

The brothers have been summoned for causing "nuisance and annoyance" to the Ali family by racial harassment.

Mrs Hawkins faces two summonses for £138 rent and heating arrears and defying an earlier court order banning her misnamed dog from the estate.

The case continues.

OIL BOILER

When cotton yarn processors James Sutcliffe & Sons Ltd were told of the massive savings they could make by switching from oil to electricity they were, frankly, sceptical.

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COMMENTARY



Geoffrey Smith

What has struck me immediately on this visit to the United States is the remarkable spirit of American optimism about disarmament that has followed Reykjavik. A near international catastrophe has been transformed into something close to a domestic political triumph.

This has been achieved partly by a calculated propaganda exercise on the part of the Administration and also by President Reagan's extraordinary capacity to make his countrymen share his own sunny view of the world.

This sense of optimism will now be put to an initial test with the first high-level meeting between Soviet and American leaders since the summit when Mr George Shultz and Mr Eduard Shevardnadze come together today in Vienna.

The American intention is that this should be an occasion not so much for fresh negotiations as for clarifying and refining the disagreements that emerged in Reykjavik. This is certainly necessary.

The summit was characterized both by a failure to refine the issues before the two sides got there and by the confusion after they left as to what had or had not been tentatively agreed before the breakdown.

There appear now to be four principle differences between them. The United States is speaking of eliminating all offensive ballistic missiles at the end of 10 years, while the Soviets want to get rid of all strategic arms.

No agreement on limitations

Then they do not agree as to what limitations there should be within that period on research, development and testing of the Strategic Defence Initiative. Soviet diplomats appear to have been suggesting that their definition of laboratory testing might not be too restrictive. But that would not get round the American objection that they must be allowed to test a defensive space system in space.

The third disagreement is that the United States wants the right to deploy SDI after 10 years, while the Soviet Union maintains that there should then be further negotiations on any possible deployment.

Finally, there are conflicting views as to what should be done about the smaller intermediate range missiles that the Soviet Union has in eastern Europe.

The United States argues that if the larger intermediate missiles - the Cruise, Pershing and SS20s - were all removed from Europe then there should be a freeze on Soviet deployment of the smaller missiles, with the Americans having the right to match them. The Soviet Union would like to have simply a freeze at current levels, which would confirm their present advantage.

Even if agreement cannot be reached on any of these points, it would be sensible for both sides to be absolutely clear on where they differ. That is a more methodical procedure for negotiations and more likely to yield a lasting settlement in the long run.

But there are in fact two reasons for hoping that the discussions in Vienna do not get beyond the task of clarification. Mr Shultz has emerged as the principal enthusiast within the Administration for pressing on from the Reykjavik base camp to a comprehensive settlement. If he were given his head in Vienna he might rush to ill-considered positions which would not be in the best interest of the Western Alliance.

The other reason for pausing at this stage is that a period of reflection is needed in Washington on the implications of Reykjavik. There are some signs of second thoughts beginning to emerge on the wisdom of talking about a non-nuclear world or of negotiating away all ballistic missiles and all Euro missiles.

The Administration is not all of one mind on these questions and a process of reassessment may become easier now that the mid-term elections are over.

It is very much in the interest of the European allies that this should take place because there is a real risk of the United States undermining confidence in its commitment to Europe almost unaware as it pursues such objectives as the elimination of ballistic missiles which are beyond its grasp anyway.

Howe call unheeded

Shevardnadze ends hope of separate accord on missiles

From Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent, Vienna

Any hope of an agreement to remove Soviet SS 20 and American cruise and Pershing 2 missiles from Europe without waiting for a comprehensive East-West disarmament accord was dispelled yesterday.

Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, told Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, that the Soviet Union was prepared to accept nothing less than an overall agreement on nuclear weapons.

A meeting before the opening of the third follow-up to the European Conference on Security and Co-operation revealed no softening of the stand made by the Russians at last month's Reykjavik summit.

The Soviet demand that the US should agree not to test laser weapons in space as part of an overall nuclear agreement remained firm. Sir Geoffrey's calls for early progress to eliminate intermediate-range nuclear weapons (INF) and short-range missiles went unheeded.

"I told Mr Shevardnadze that it was illogical and a retrograde step to make such an agreement conditional on an understanding on SDI (the American Strategic Defence Initiative)," said Sir Geoffrey.

Mr Shevardnadze indicated that the Soviet Union now required that any package should cover progress on strategic weapons, intermediate missiles and a longer period of non-withdrawal from the 1972 ABM (Anti-Ballistic Missile) Treaty.

Sir Geoffrey responded with two British Government linkages. Any agreement to eliminate INF missiles from Europe should also cover short-range nuclear missiles, and any overall nuclear agreement should be accompanied by comparable progress on troop reductions.



Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, meeting in Vienna yesterday.

Israel PM silent on Vanunu

From Ian Murray Jerusalem

The Prime Minister of Israel, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, made his first public comment yesterday about the disappearance of Mr Mordechai Vanunu, the nuclear technician who told *The Sunday Times* Israel had developed a nuclear arsenal.

Mr Shamir tersely told a radio reporter that Israel was not under any pressure to say anything on the subject. The Government, he said, would do so only when it deemed it appropriate and it would continue to do its duty by its citizens. He would say nothing else.

Rome orders Aids tests in prisons

From Peter Nichols, Rome

The Italian Government has ordered that all consenting prisoners be tested to see if they are carrying the Aids virus. This is one of the steps being taken to deal with the release of an estimated 12,000 convicts before the year is out.

The exodus is due to more liberal prison regulations now coming into effect and in a projected amnesty due to be approved by Christmas. The first releases under the new regulations took place at the weekend and have now reached 250. It is estimated that as many as 5,000 prisoners may benefit.

The object of the prison reform is to concentrate on re-education. In principle, the prisoner who proves by his conduct that he is intent on self-improvement will be able to ask for remission of his sentence of up to 45 days for every six months served. He could also ask for an annual "holiday" of up to 45 days a year, to be taken in fortnightly periods.

A prisoner sentenced to life imprisonment will now be able to take some holiday after the first 10 years so long as he behaves well, has good relations with other prisoners and co-operates in the work of re-education. After another 10 years he will need only to sleep inside the prison. And finally he could expect to be granted an early release.

The problem involving the threat of a further spread of Aids is raised by the fact that legislation cannot be passed in time before the exodus takes place to make medical tests obligatory. At the moment the only one which can be imposed by law is the Wasserman test for syphilis.

WORLD SUMMARY

US setback on abortion curbs

Washington - The Supreme Court has severely set back nationwide efforts to restrict abortion by ruling that states cannot cut off public funds to private family planning and pregnancy counselling organizations that also offer abortions (Christopher Thomas writes).

The court, voting five to three, said in the majority decision that Arizona acted improperly when it barred state family planning funds for groups providing abortions or abortion counselling.

Mugabe insult Attack on Aids

Harare - A woman from Zimbabwe's Ndebele minority tribe has been jailed for six months without the option of a fine for saying that she wished the Prime Minister, Mr Robert Mugabe, had been killed with Mozambique's President Machel in the October 19 air crash in northern South Africa (Michael Hartnack writes).

Washington - The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has made new recommendations for further reducing the risk of Aids transmission through the blood supply, and has expanded the list of those who should not donate blood to include prostitute and their recent heterosexual customers (Mohsin Ali writes).

Alfonsin appeal

Buenos Aires (Reuter) - President Alfonsin of Argentina has asked President Reagan to support his protest against Britain's establishment of a fishing zone around the disputed Falkland Islands, a government statement said.

Señor Alfonsin made a 10-minute telephone call to Mr Reagan in California and asked for his "understanding and support".

Buses boycott Scheme for Suez

Johannesburg - Buses running between here and Soweto were boycotted for the second successive day in protest against a 17.5 per cent fare increase (Michael Hornsby writes).

One bus driver suffered eye injuries and concussion when his vehicle was attacked by a stone-throwing mob in Soweto.

Cairo (AFP) - The Suez Canal Authority may adapt the waterway for two-way working, the authority's president, Mr Ezzat Adel told a conference marking the 30th anniversary of its nationalization.

Egyptian labour equipment would be used, he said, but he gave no starting date.

Mozambique unrest Frelimo youth sack Malawi Embassy

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Angry youths sacked the Malawi Embassy and threw stones and rotten tomatoes at the offices of the South African Trade Mission in Maputo yesterday.

News of the demonstrations came as President Botha sent a message to President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique, congratulating him on his election on Monday.

Pretoria claims that Mozambique is allowing guerrillas of the outlawed African National Congress (ANC) to use its territory as a sanctuary, and Maputo maintains that South Africa is continuing to support Renamo insurgents inside Mozambique.

Yesterday's trouble started with a march by members of the youth organisation of Frelimo, Mozambique's sole political party. The intention had been to deliver a protest note to the South African and Malawi representatives, but part of the crowd turned violent and some stoned the South African Trade Mission, breaking several windows.

A larger group of demonstrators ransacked the Malawi Embassy, dragging furniture and piles of documents into the street and setting them alight. The Malawi flag was also torn down and thrown on the bonfire.

Slogans reading "Samora lives" and "Banda is a murderer" were daubed on the walls of the Embassy. The demonstrators also carried placards calling for an explanation of the October 19 air crash, which Mozambique newspapers have accused

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Carl Gozzett and Nevill Colgate's metal pressing works was doing nicely turning over about £300,000 a year when the big break came.

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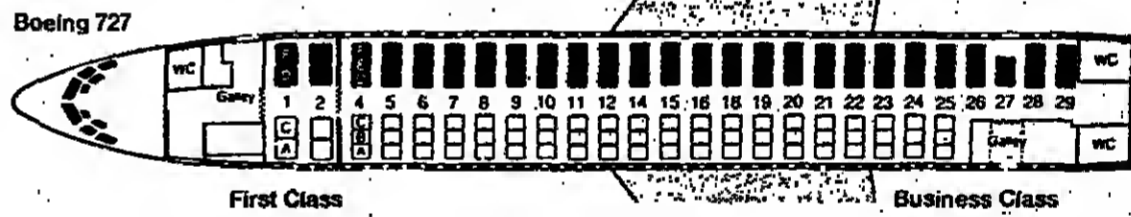
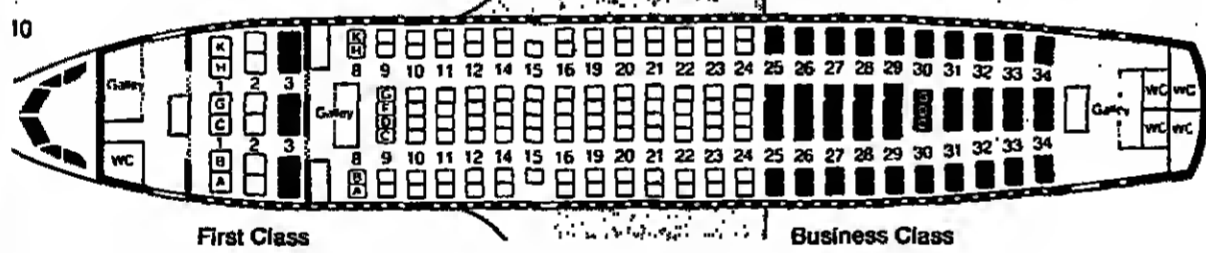
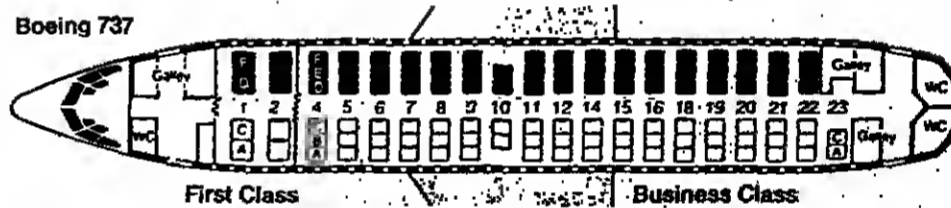
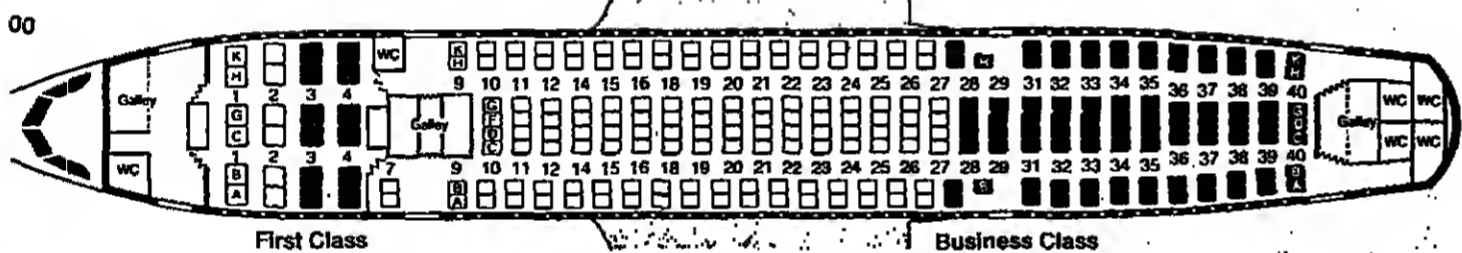
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Lawyers will not dispute facts on plane shot down in Nicaragua

Defence says surviving airman had minor part in Contra arms lift

From Alan Tomlinson, Managua

Lawyers representing Mr. Eugene Hasenfus, the American airman charged with terrorism in Nicaragua, said they would not dispute the facts of the case against him. Mr. Griffin Bell, a former US Attorney-General who is advising Nicaraguan lawyers on the American's behalf, said the defence would not challenge the fact that Mr. Hasenfus had been running guns to the American-backed Contras when his plane was shot down on October 3.

Bell hoped that the Nicaraguan Government would be merciful. The American faces up to 30 years in prison on charges of terrorism, violating national security and taking part in an illicit association with CIA agents. The defence says Mr. Hasenfus is simply an employee of a legally-constituted aviation company who had no direct knowledge of any CIA involvement in the Contra supply operation. The prosecution has alleged that the company, Corporate Air Services of Pennsylvania, is a front for a CIA undercover operation aimed at overthrowing the Nicaraguan Government and that Mr. Hasenfus knew this. A Nicaraguan aviation expert, Señor Hugo Mendicita, told the Revolutionary People's Tribunal, which is hearing the case, that flight logs recovered from the ill-fated cargo plane showed that it had changed its registration number four times and had been flying with no number at all when it was shot down. Mr. Bell said on Monday that he would present pay cheques from Corporate Air Services and affidavits from Mr. Hasenfus and his wife, Sally, in an effort to demonstrate that Mr. Hasenfus was not a CIA conspirator. "I do not think he was a terrorist in the sense of terrorism as we know it," Mr. Bell said. "He was not in a group going round blowing up buildings in London or Paris, or here either. He was helping the Contras by what he was doing. Now I thought the Contras were a revolutionary movement trying to overthrow the Government of Nicaragua. I did not know they were terrorists." The former Attorney-General declined to offer an opinion as to what Mr. Hasenfus might have been charged with in the United States had he been caught delivering guns to a group trying to overthrow the US Government.



Mr Eugene Hasenfus, the lone survivor of the cargo plane shot down over Nicaragua last month, looking downcast as he surveys arms allegedly recovered from the crashed plane.

UN tells Reagan to end rebel aid

From Zoriana Fysarivsky, New York

The United States stood in near isolation over its Central America policy as the United Nations General Assembly adopted a measure urging the Reagan Administration to abandon its support of the Nicaraguan Contra rebels in keeping with a June directive issued by the World Court. Despite intense American lobbying, half of its Nato allies broke with the US in the voting, in what was seen as a sign of growing concern that the stage is being set for a possible military confrontation following the Reagan Administration's decision to introduce advanced fighter planes into Central America in an attempt to modernize the Honduran Air Force. The other half of the alliance, including Britain, abstained during the voting which saw 94 countries put their weight behind Nicaragua with only Israel and El Salvador coming out unequivocally on the side of the US. The outcome proved that Nicaragua can still count on Western support, however lukewarm, to shield it diplomatically from the US. But the Western Allies made clear that they were deeply disillusioned with the way the Sandinista Government conducts itself and they indicated that unless Nicaragua takes steps to restore democracy and to end a policy of interference in the affairs of its neighbours, it risks a diplomatic fall from grace. Canada, the Netherlands and Luxembourg, which were among those voting for the Nicaragua-inspired draft, said that the Sandinistas were partly to blame for the escalating tension in the region. The vote in the Assembly followed an American veto in the Security Council last week on an almost identical resolution. Señor Miguel D'Escoto Bruchman, the Nicaraguan Foreign Minister, accused the Reagan Administration of pressurizing and blackmailing those governments in the region that disapproved of US policy but now had no other choice. It was imperative that the judgement handed down by the International Court of Justice be followed in letter and spirit, he said, adding that the American arguments and actions against the jurisdiction of the Court were a travesty of justice. Mr. Herbert Okuma, the American delegate, said that the resolution totally ignored the situation in Central America. "It was a totally unacceptable portrayal of the reality of Central America," he said, claiming that Nicaragua's attempt at subversion in the region could not be met by the Administration with benign neglect.

Central America braces itself for build-up of war

From Martha Hovey, San José, Costa Rica

The University of Costa Rica's respected weekly *Diplomatic and Military Sources* says in a two-page report that plans are set for a US invasion of Nicaragua; only the date is uncertain. With the arrival this week of the first US shipments of military supplies under a new \$100 million (£70.9 million) Contra aid package, Central America's five pro-Western countries are braced for a sharp build-up in the Nicaraguan conflict which could, many here say, culminate in a direct US invasion. Over the past months, leaders of Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala and Panama have, to varying degrees, made known their uneasiness about the impact of the Contra aid package and the official restoration of day-to-day CIA management of the five-year-old war against the leftist Sandinista Government. They won a small victory by convincing the Reagan Administration to train several hundred Contra officers inside "the continental United States" and not in Central America as had been planned. Several weeks ago, a furor erupted when a Panamanian legislator announced, apparently incorrectly, that clandestine training of Contra troops was already underway at the US Southern Command outside Panama City. The US allies in Central America all face rising public fears that the widening Contra war will engulf the entire region. In El Salvador, where the Government contends it does not provide support to the Contras, relations with the US have been strained after revelations by the captured US airman Eugene Hasenfus. He said he was an adviser to the Salvadoran military and was part of an elaborate Contra supply network operating secretly out of a Salvadoran military airfield. In Tegucigalpa, several hundred coffee growers chanting "Yankee garbage leave Honduras", demonstrated outside the National Assembly last week to demand the expulsion of Contra and US military forces. They presented a petition claiming that 17,000 Contras from the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), the largest Contra army which operates out of Honduras, have annexed a portion of the border region there and established a "new Nicaragua". The official response was that "not one square inch" of territory will be used by the Contras, but the Government has not taken concrete steps to expel them. Contra leaders say they plan to expand FDN forces to 20,000 over the coming months. In addition, US and Honduran military sources say that several Honduran islands will be used for storing and shipping the Contra supplies and as staging areas for airborne attacks against Nicaraguan Pacific coast targets. In contrast with Honduras, the Costa Rican Government has arrested and expelled armed Contras, seized caches of arms, tried captured mercenaries, and closed clandestine rebel airstrips and hospitals. But Contra officials say "top priority" will be given to expanding their "southern front", which operates along the Costa Rican-Nicaraguan border. All these pro-Western countries walk a tightrope, not wanting to antagonise the US which is their greatest source of economic and military assistance. "We can stand up to the Reagan Administration only so long as they don't start cutting our aid package," said one high-ranking Costa Rican official. Leaders of these five countries say they prefer a negotiated settlement to a wider war in Nicaragua. The Guatemalan Foreign Minister, Señor Mario Quirós, recently visited the other countries in an effort to revive the stale-mated Contadora peace talks by which Latin American countries have sought agreement on a written accord to end the Nicaraguan war. But his tour was overshadowed by the successive visits of the US Secretary of State, Mr. George Shultz, and Assistant Secretary of State, Mr. Elliott Abrams, and Mr. Michael Armacost. They are said to have promised their worried allies increased assistance in return for co-operation with the Contra cause. This includes \$300 million in aid to the Central American "democracies", emergency assistance to help El Salvador recover from its earthquake, and the sale, for the first time, of F-5E jet fighters to Honduras. Nicaragua has responded to the new Contra aid by Pentagon officials say, denouncing its inventory of Soviet-supplied aircraft including acquisition of six more Mi 25 helicopter gunships. An 30 reconnaissance aircraft, more than a dozen Mi 17 troop transport helicopters, and new cargo planes.

First Lady's maid is cleared in arms case

From Mohsin AE, Washington

Mrs Nancy Reagan's White House maid, Mrs Anita Castelo, has been cleared of involvement in an alleged scheme to smuggle small-arms ammunition to Paraguay. A federal prosecutor recommended at a court in Richmond, Virginia, on Monday that the charges against her be dismissed, because there was no criminal intent. The judge did so. Mrs Reagan was said to be happy that Mrs Castelo, aged 45, was found innocent and she was welcome to return to her old job as personal maid and wardrobe assistant.

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Handwritten note: "The Arts" with a signature.

THE ARTS

A living in death

Consider this in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, there lives a man who has killed four people in as many years. His crimes are varied.

The killer's name is Sergeant Dye (which he cannot, of course, keep), and he resembles a rather lugubrious workaholic of middle years.

In the studiously meticulous first Tuesday (TV), the fall sergeant displayed the grisly hardware of his occasional rages: the foam-lined restraining straps; the Fickelhaube helmet; the velcro-tied execution shirt; several of buttons for use in the attempt to burn his fingers.

TELEVISION

The electric chair is a singularly barbaric mode of execution, but it might be thought no more cruel and painful a punishment than sending a prisoner to Death Row, often for years on end.

The programme might have been more biographical in its approach, but the extraordinary "paralegal" who has been on her knees to cajole the reluctant into representing the defendant in the absence of a public defender is also well detailed.

Martin Cropper



Cinderella (Sylvie Guillem) makes her way to the studio by open-topped car

John Percival reports on Nureyev's new Cinderella in Paris

All the fun of a musical

The intention of Rudolf Nureyev and his designer, Petrika Ionesco, to set their production of the Prokofiev Cinderella in the Hollywood of the Thirties sounded, before the event, capricious and even silly.

The production goes for spectacle in a big way. The film studio where Act I takes place is a vast Babylonian skyscraper, and when first seen from a distance there is a whole row of outside Betty Grable cut-outs to point the way.

Instead of a ball, Cinderella goes to an audition and rehearsal where she gets the starring role her pretty but spiteful stepsisters have been trying for.

male dancers at his disposal, and more of them, than Ashton ever enjoyed. Also, like Ashton, Nureyev knows how to use a big corps de ballet, and the ensembles again benefit from the exceptional quality of the Paris company all through its ranks.

Nureyev also introduces a glamorous stepmother (a deliciously wicked drag performance by Georges Fletta, pointe shoes and all) to complement the antics of Cinderella's stepsisters, played with relish by two of the company's most gifted ballerinas, Isabelle Guérin and Monique Loubières.

Nureyev has in fact followed Prokofiev's wish to concentrate above all on the love-story, and to that end devotes the whole of the last scene (once Cinderella has signed her contract) to giving her and her heart-throb leading man another duet.

When it comes to the big set pieces, nobody would expect Nureyev to outshine Ashton in the composition of the duets - although as indicated he scores by allowing himself more scope.

Dirty Dishes Boulevard

Wedged between the meretricious fables of Walker's Court, Soho, and shaming associates with the Raymond Reacher, this brave newish venue offers better value for money than many a "legitimate" West End theatre.

The action develops entirely in the kitchen of a London pizzeria, epistemically named, where a clutch of illegal immigrants and associated misfits are doing what they can to ease the pain of tough work and lousy wages.

Young Writers Theatre Upstairs

Hopes for the future of dramatic writing in a video age are given a boost by this year's Royal Court Young Writers' Festival.

Irving Wardle

I am sorry to greet an adventurous group in these terms. The accompanying Swedish dinner is well up to the standards of the house.

GOOD CREDENTIALS invites you to a behind the scenes dinner chat with BRIAN SAVEGAR ART DIRECTOR on award winning ROOM WITH A VIEW

seance "Demmond Lynam wears a moustache". Later, he will howl "I'm frustrating" - my whole body is frustrating", which I think is a delicious line.

The dirt that is dished to these lost souls comes from the smiling wife of a manager (Oily Parker), who is, unfortunately, the one incredible character of the piece.

Martin Cropper

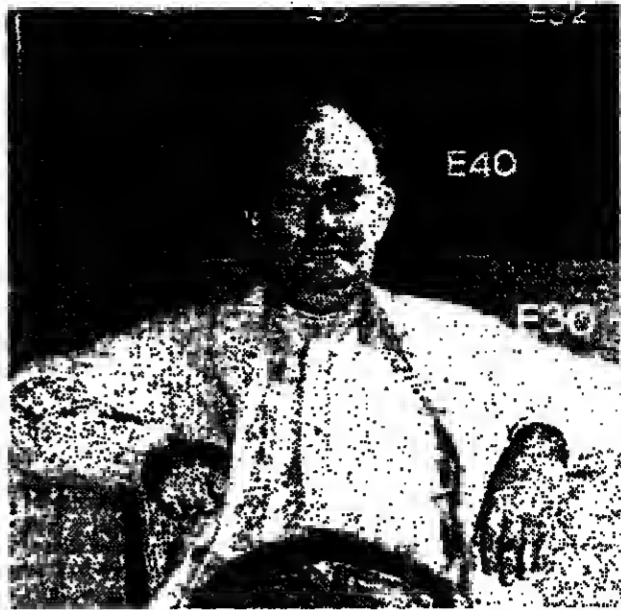
across a Pope-embroidered rug, and the fat girl at the stores (delightful Cheryl Marker) offers only traditional joys.

These two plays, both directed by Hettie Macdonald, peter out near the end.

Jeremy Kingston

The people to watch

Tons of Money, which opens at the Lyttelton tomorrow, surprisingly marks the London debut of Alan Ayckbourn (right) in directing work other than his own: interview by Andrew Hislop



Alan Ayckbourn is a great audience-watcher during the performances of his plays. This celebrated master-craftsman, ever inventive of ingenious theatrical techniques to explore the comic middle and suppressed horror of middle-class life, is never short of people to look at.

For well over 20 years, however, Ayckbourn's critical gaze at his public - mainly adoring and guffawing, but also occasionally puzzled and disturbed - has been predominantly in Scarborough.

The good players of Scarborough, however, now have a temporary reprieve from the keen Ayckbourn eye, for their adopted theatrical son has taken a sabbatical from his unpaid job as director of production to direct three plays at the National Theatre.

He has chosen the programme not only to offer a full range of drama from the tragic to the lightest comedy, with his own play in the middle, but also to fit the theatres. He used to think good drama could be done anywhere, but now believes "the right space is essential for the right play".

His own play is the result of his obsession with the problems of mastering the vast Olivier - "the most infuriating theatre and the most interesting".

Widely, Ayckbourn has approached the problems of working in such a leviathan of a theatre as the National by trying to re-create some of the intimacy of Scarborough.

Creating that atmosphere, according to Ayckbourn, is "the most difficult thing in the world", but he is obviously good at it. Large, jovially rounded but very quick in mind, easygoing yet with the thinly veiled competitive spirit of the keen English amateur sportsman - appropriately, he keeps wicket - Ayckbourn is able both to get the best out of a company in short, intensive rehearsals and to make sure they have great fun in the process too.

the theatre, including acting. He once was even directed by Pinter as Stanley in The Birthday Party, fresh from its famous mating by the London critics.

Ayckbourn comes to the National at the summit of his career. The security of his Scarborough nest has enabled him to continue his work remarkably unaffected by those who have overpraised him, comparing him to Shakespeare, and those who have unjustly reviled him, regarding him as a vacuous, right-wing boulevardier.

He does, however, reveal a comforting vulnerability about his move to the National. Though Sir Peter Hall was prepared to allow him, as is his wont at Scarborough, to write A Small Family Business at the last moment, he produced it a year in advance.

Advertisement for RPO Remember November. Thursdays at 7.30pm ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL. Includes program details for Nov 6, 13, and 27.

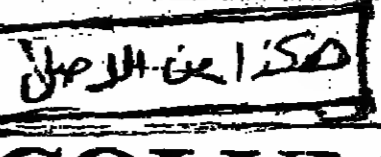
Advertisement for ENO English National Opera. Spring 1987 Subscription season. Now booking. Includes details about flexible schemes and big savings for Tosca, Faust, Akhnaten, Simon Boccanegra, Don Giovanni, The Stone Guest, Orpheus in the Underworld, Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk, Carmen.

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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS AND IN MEMORIAM

PERSONAL COLUMNS

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ABRAHAM - On November 4th, to Amanda Rose...

BIRTHS

ANNE - On November 4th, to Amanda Rose...

DEATHS

BLOTTING - On November 4th, to Amanda Rose...

ANNIVERSARIES

POLYANNE - On November 5th, to Amanda Rose...

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

WALEY - On November 5th, to Amanda Rose...

DEATHS

BOLTON - On November 5th, to Amanda Rose...

DEATHS

BRADLEY - On November 5th, to Amanda Rose...

DEATHS

CHAMBERLAIN - On November 5th, to Amanda Rose...

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DEATHS

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DEATHS

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AMERICAN BUYERS SEEK... ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1294.3 (+0.2) FT-SE 100 1637.7 (-1.50)

Bargains 32686 (36712) USM (Datastream) 126.98 (+0.86)

THE POUND

US Dollar 1.4145 (+0.0035) W German mark 2.9096 (-0.0013) Trade-weighted 68.6 (-0.1)

Montagu defection

Barclays de Zoete Wedd has added to its capital markets capability by recruiting a Eurobond trading team from Samuel Montagu...

This is the latest in a series of moves by Mr Ken Green, head of the international capital markets division...

Bigger stake

American Trust has agreed to subscribe for up to 2.67 million new Edinburgh Oil and Gas shares at 30p a share...

Profits trebled

Pretax profits at GT Management almost trebled in the six months to September 30...

IBA approval

The Independent Broadcasting Authority has approved plans by Anglia Television to give voting rights to its A shares...

Ban on coins

British imports of South African gold coins are now banned irrespective of their country of origin...

Arlington link

Arlington Securities plans to partner Teeland Development in a £25 million town-centre development for Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria...

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

Table with columns for Stock Market, FT 30 Share, FT-SE 100, etc.

INTEREST RATES

Table with columns for London, Bank Base, Federal Funds, etc.

CURRENCIES

Table with columns for London, New York, etc.

Official reserves in biggest fall since 1982

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Britain's official reserves fell by an underlying \$668 million (£474 million) last month, the biggest monthly drop for four years...

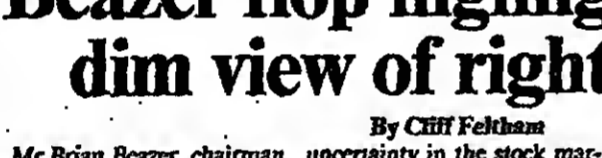
The reserves stood at \$21,992 million (£15,614 million) at the end of last month, compared with \$22,426 million (£15,491 million) at the end of September.

The actual reserves total showed a rise of \$30 million since the start of the year, and the fall in the reserves in the second half of last year was recouped in the early months of this year.

The pressure on the pound, and the need for official intervention, has eased in the past few days. Yesterday, however, the pound slipped slightly...

The pound may also have received some short-term benefit because of the US midterm elections yesterday, which caused some dealers to take up defensive positions on the dollar.

UK OFFICIAL RESERVES



Beazer flop highlights City's dim view of rights issues

By Cliff Feltham

Mr Brian Beazer, chairman of CH Beazer, the fast-growing Bath housebuilding group, admitted last night that the company's rapid expansion may have come to a halt after disappointment over his latest City fund-raising exercise.

Beazer's share price has fallen from 230p, before the announcement of the two-for-three rights issue in September, to 180p...

First Interstate ponders new BankAmerica bid

From Our Correspondent, Washington

First Interstate Bancorp, whose \$3.4 billion (£2.4 billion) bid for BankAmerica Corporation was rejected, said yesterday it was reviewing its options to see if further overtures were warranted.

It was believed that First Interstate would launch a hostile takeover bid for the California bank if its friendly offer was rejected by management...

BCal sells last of its package tour hotels

By Teresa Poole, Business Correspondent

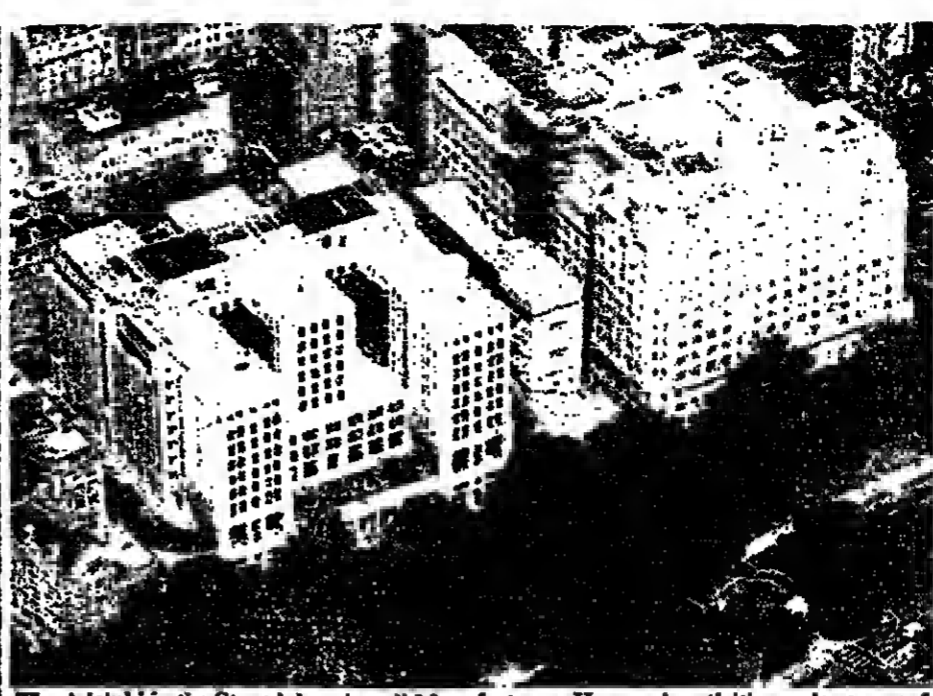
British Caledonian yesterday completed its withdrawal from the package holiday business with the sale of hotel interests in the Balearics and Canary Islands.

Fed unlikely to cut rates as economy shows revival signs

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The powerful open market committee of the US Federal Reserve Board meets today to chart a new monetary course following an historic agreement with Japan...

Should the Fed decide to stimulate the economy further to avoid a recession in 1987, it would have more flexibility to do so in the aftermath of Japan's decision to cut its discount rate to 3 per cent.



The Adelphi in the Strand: housing all Manufacturers Hanover's activities under one roof.

Maxwell stake surprise

By Alison Eadie

Mr Robert Maxwell, publisher of the Daily Mirror, yesterday enhanced his reputation for springing surprises, when he announced he had bought more McCorquodale shares at prices up to 6p above the management buyout terms.

Mr Maxwell bought a further 1.275 million shares, or 2.6 per cent, in two blocks at 30p and 30 1/2p. His total holding in the company is now 17.2 per cent.

Mr John Wood, the McCorquodale chairman, who is not involved in the buyout, yesterday wrote to shareholders, recommending the management buyout offer.

Shareholders were urged to take no action until they saw the formal offer document, expected early next week.

Opax has acceptances of 27.3 per cent in addition to its 14.9 per cent stake, giving it control of 42.2 per cent of McCorquodale.

Albert Fisher in £44.7m buy

By Lawrence Lever

Albert Fisher Group, the fast-growing food distribution and service company, went back on the acquisition trail yesterday with purchases worth £44.7 million.

The company is paying £38 million for three Distillers food subsidiaries owned by Guinness and a maximum \$9.5 million (£6.7 million) for a Florida fruit and vegetable distributor.

Two weeks ago, the company announced that full-year pretax profits had more than doubled to £8.33 million. Yesterday, it forecast a 30 per cent increase in its total dividend on the enlarged share capital for the present year.

These deals contain no earnings dilutions, Mr Miller promised. "Moreover, profits will now be more or less evenly split between Britain and the US. Last year about two-thirds came from the US."

Albert Fisher's shares rose 4p on yesterday's announcement, closing at 166p. The three Guinness food companies - Stratford-upon-Avon Canners, MCC Foods and Frank Idiens & Sons - between them produced pretax profits of £3.3 million in the year to March 31.

The American purchase - Red's Group - had net tangible assets of \$1.9 million as at October 15. Its pretax profits in the nine-and-a-half months to that date amounted to \$1.6 million before extraordinary items and non-recurring expenditure.

US bank leaves City after 50 years

By Judith Huntley Commercial Property Correspondent

Manufacturers Hanover Corporation, the American bank housed in Princes Street, City of London, for 50 years, is moving into 300,000 sq ft of space at the Adelphi in the Strand.

The bank purchased the Adelphi lease from the Phillips Petroleum Company UK for £90 million. It has the option to buy the freehold from the Prudential Assurance Company.

The move away from the Square Mile allows the bank to concentrate all its activities, including investment banking, under one roof, in addition to expanding its international activities from London.

Manufacturers intends to open 150 dealing positions in the Adelphi and foreign exchange and Eurobond dealers will work on a new trading floor. The bank may also venture into gilt trading.

Philips Petroleum UK is moving to 120,000 sq ft of offices in two buildings in Woking, Surrey. It is paying rents of £14 a sq ft and £12 a sq ft with a rent-free period.

Hunting makes £2m provision against stake

Hunting Group is to make a £2 million provision against its 47 per cent stake in the troubled New England Properties.

New England has run into problems with a major London property refurbishment scheme. Details of their full impact will be set out in a circular to shareholders.

Group profits at the half way stage were struck before taking account of the provision. They emerged at £2.7 million compared with £1.9 million last year.

Profits of Hunting Petroleum Services are held back by losses to its oilfield services activities but the aviation and defence operations of Hunting Associated Industries are expected to show continuing growth in the second half.

Vital information for anyone investing in stocks and shares after 27th October 1986.

Discount Brokers International (UK) Ltd. advertisement with contact details and investment information.

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Barratt beset by bid talk as Kuwaitis sell 11% stake

By Carol Leonard

A question mark was hanging over the independence of Barratt Developments...

The stake, worth about £30 million, is thought to have been picked up by an American market-maker...

Blue Circle later denied this. Mr Robert James, group finance director of Barratt...

City experts estimate that if the activity were to result in a bid it would have to be at around the 220p level...

Glaxo, the big pharmaceuticals company, slipped 6p to 944p and could be in for a further...

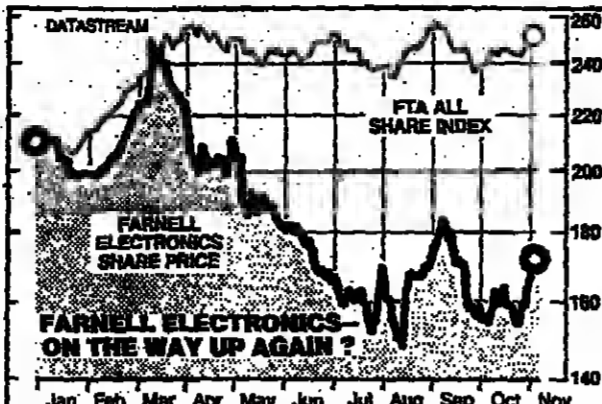
The company has seen its share price tumble from a high of 250p earlier this year...

Hanson Trust was the highest volume equity, notching up a total of 13 million shares...

Parrell Electronics, the Leeds manufacturer and distributor of electronic and electrical equipment...

Chase is forecasting profits of £23.5 million for this year, against £22.1 million last time...

Commercial Union was down 5p to 283p on the news broke in London yesterday that a Californian court had awarded \$26 million...



They think they have given too gloomy an impression to the City...

Oil prices eased a few pence across the board, despite continued talk that the Saudis want to push the price up to \$18 a barrel...

Large lines of stock in composite insurers changed hands as investors took profits ahead of their results on Wednesday and Thursday...

Commercial Union was down 5p to 283p on the news broke in London yesterday that a Californian court had awarded \$26 million...

COMMENT Kenneth Fleet Japanese throw US rivals off balance

The biggest threat to the liberalization of capital markets and the boom in financial services is protectionism...

Already the Japanese banks and securities houses have a formidable presence in the United States...

Yesterday, as the November auctions got under way, the New York bond market was in a lather of uncertainty...

There is an understanding on the "right" exchange rate in present conditions between the Japanese and the Americans...

None of this may happen. The debt auctions might go swimmingly, with everyone making money...

The doubts remain Meanwhile back in what some prefer to think of as the real world, Americans were voting in their customary disappointing numbers...

The earliest indication on timing will come with the employment figures on Friday...

ALPHA STOCKS

Table with columns for 1986 High/Low, Company, Price, Change, Dividend, Yield, P/E, Volume, and 1985 High/Low/Company/Price/Change/Dividend/Yield/P/E.

Royal Ordnance prepares for the assault of market forces

By Teresa Poole

The crown prince of the Government's privatization programme, the heads of the companies that have passed into private ownership...

By July the share sale had been cancelled. By October, against RO's wishes, the Leeds tank factory had been sold...

With the proposed privatization less than three months away, Mr Finnington plans to streamline the four divisions...



Roger Finnington: "good chance of privatization next year"

There is also the question of whether Royal Ordnance is a suitable vehicle for privatization...

Worries, shared by the unions, about further job cuts and factory closures were aired, if necessary, through anonymous written questions...

Had government ownership, now an arm's-length relationship, restrained the company? "I have not been restricted in any shape or form..."

Mr Finnington said those contracts were no different from many he had experienced in private industry...

But concerns persist that a new owner could have off parts of the business. "If there are any job losses in the future, it would be because there was not the availability of business..."

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BASE LENDING RATES

Main table containing unit trust information, including columns for 'Unit Trust Name', 'Bid', 'Offer', 'Change', and 'Yield'. It lists various investment funds and their performance metrics.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Table of unlisted securities, organized by company name (e.g., Anglo, British, etc.) and listing their share prices and other financial details.

Where stocks have only one price quoted, these are middle prices, taken at 3pm. Yield, change and % are calculated on the middle price.

The prices in this section refer to Monday's trading. An Ex dividend... (Detailed explanation of dividend dates and trading conventions for the listed securities.)

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table of investment trusts, listing various funds and their performance metrics, including columns for 'Investment Trust Name', 'Bid', 'Offer', 'Change', and 'Yield'.

Where stocks have only one price quoted, these are middle prices, taken at 3pm. Yield, change and % are calculated on the middle price.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices, including sections for 'LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE', 'SUGAR', 'COFFEE', 'SOYABEAN', and 'PETROLEUM EXCHANGE'.

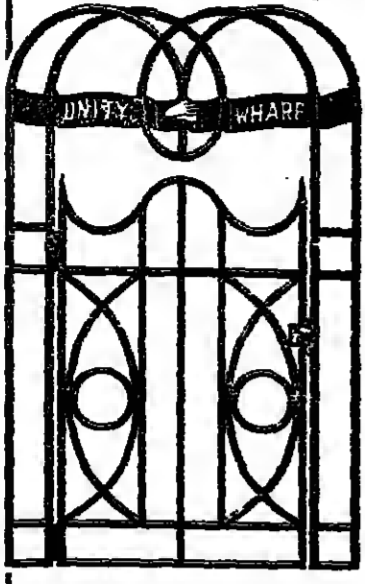
FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table of financial trusts, listing various funds and their performance metrics, including columns for 'Financial Trust Name', 'Bid', 'Offer', 'Change', and 'Yield'.



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- Woodmead Court, Iffington: 1 & 2 bed flats and 2 bed houses. Prices from around £49,950 to £79,000 □
- Bayes Grove, Baynton: Two, 3 bed luxury detached houses remaining from £149,950 to £199,950 □
- Woodlands, Woodford: Studio apartments. Prices waived. 1 & 2 bed maisonettes from £44,950 □
- Cardow Chase, Epsfield: One, 4 bed town house remaining at £115,000. All units currently reserved. Cancellation fee being prepared □

Sites shortly to be commenced

- Epsfield: 1 & 2 bed flats, 3 & 4 bed houses, 3 bed bungalows. Prices waived. Sales due to start early 1987 □
- Ansell, Ware: Luxury 3, 4 & 5 bed detached homes available early 1987 □

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- Woodbury Park, Embsay: 4 bed detached houses. Prices waived. 5 bed detached houses from £63,950 □
- Mansfield, East Somer: Two, 3 bed luxury maisonettes remaining from £33,950 to £36,400 □

For further information on prices and availability of each site: Hunting Gate Homes Chiltern Limited, 3/4 Park Street, Hitchin, Herts SG4 9BT. Tel: Hitchin 31244. Hunting Gate Homes Southern, Bickland House, Cleveland Lane, Ighite, Surrey KT9 9LZ. Tel: Esher 08915. Homebuilders, Charter House, 6 Robin Road, Haywards Heath, Sussex, BN17 1BB. Tel: Haywards Heath 416631.

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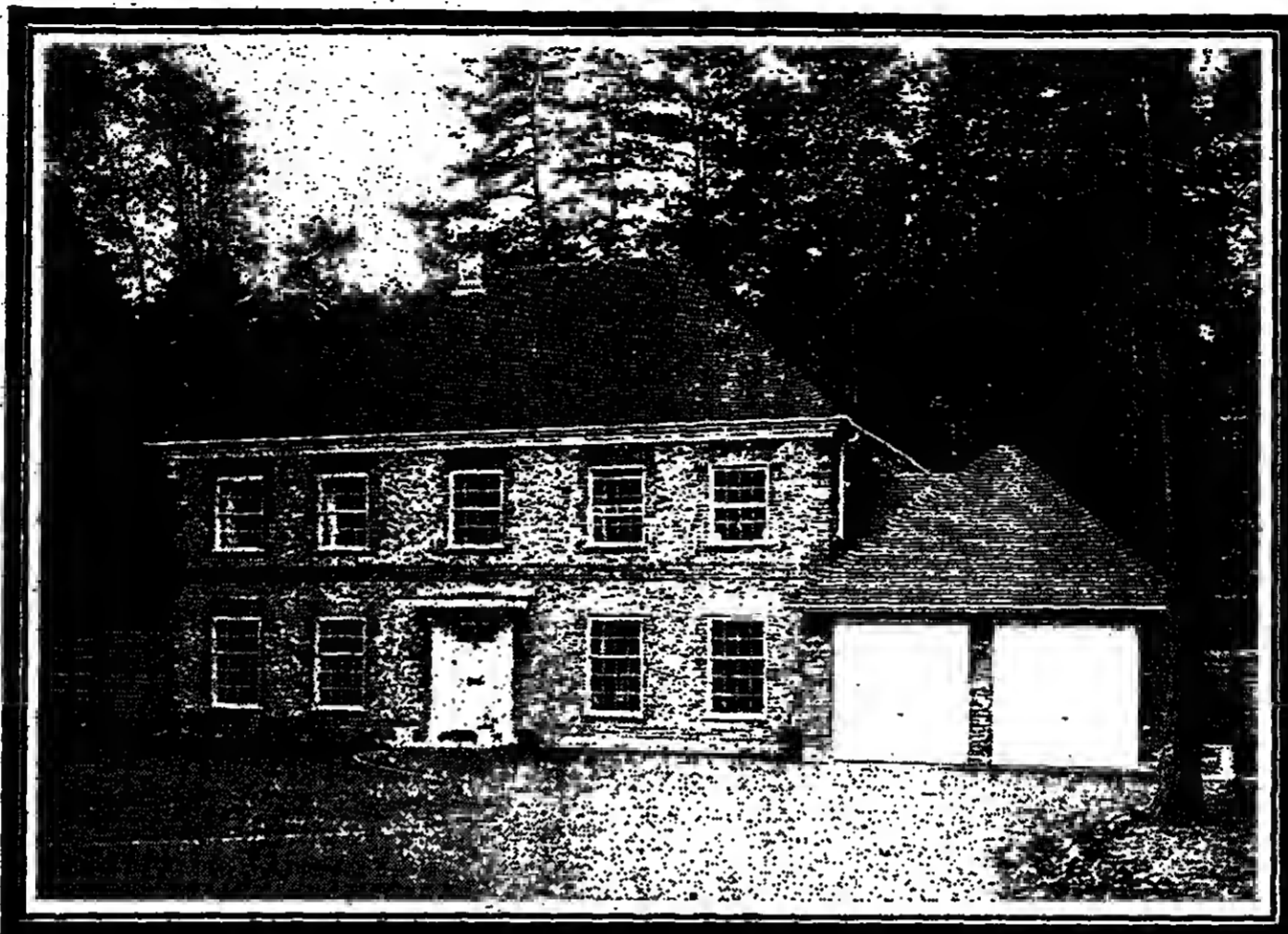
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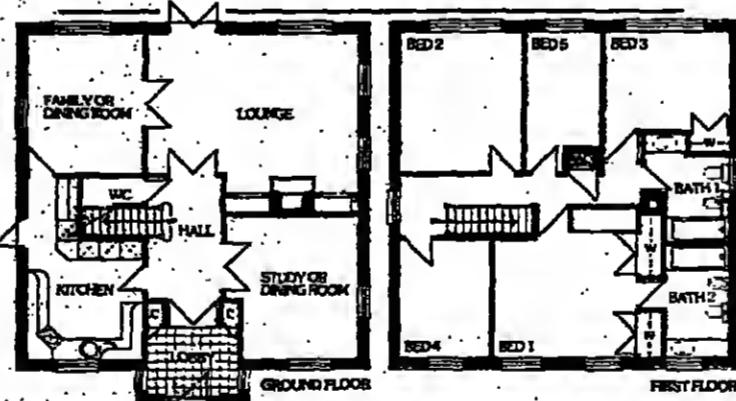
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NEW PROPERTY

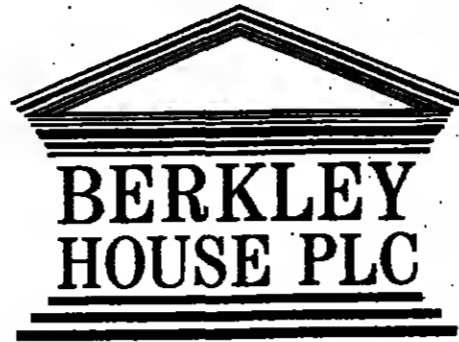
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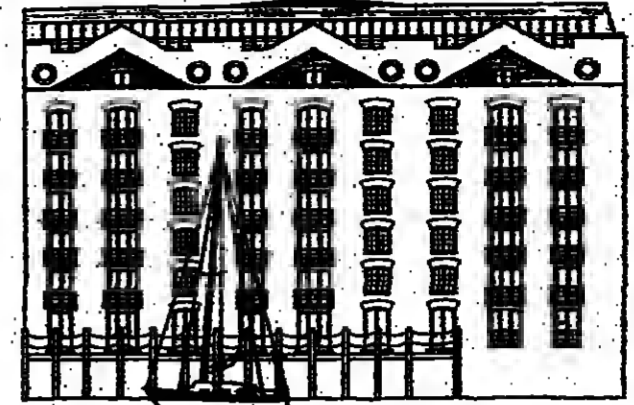
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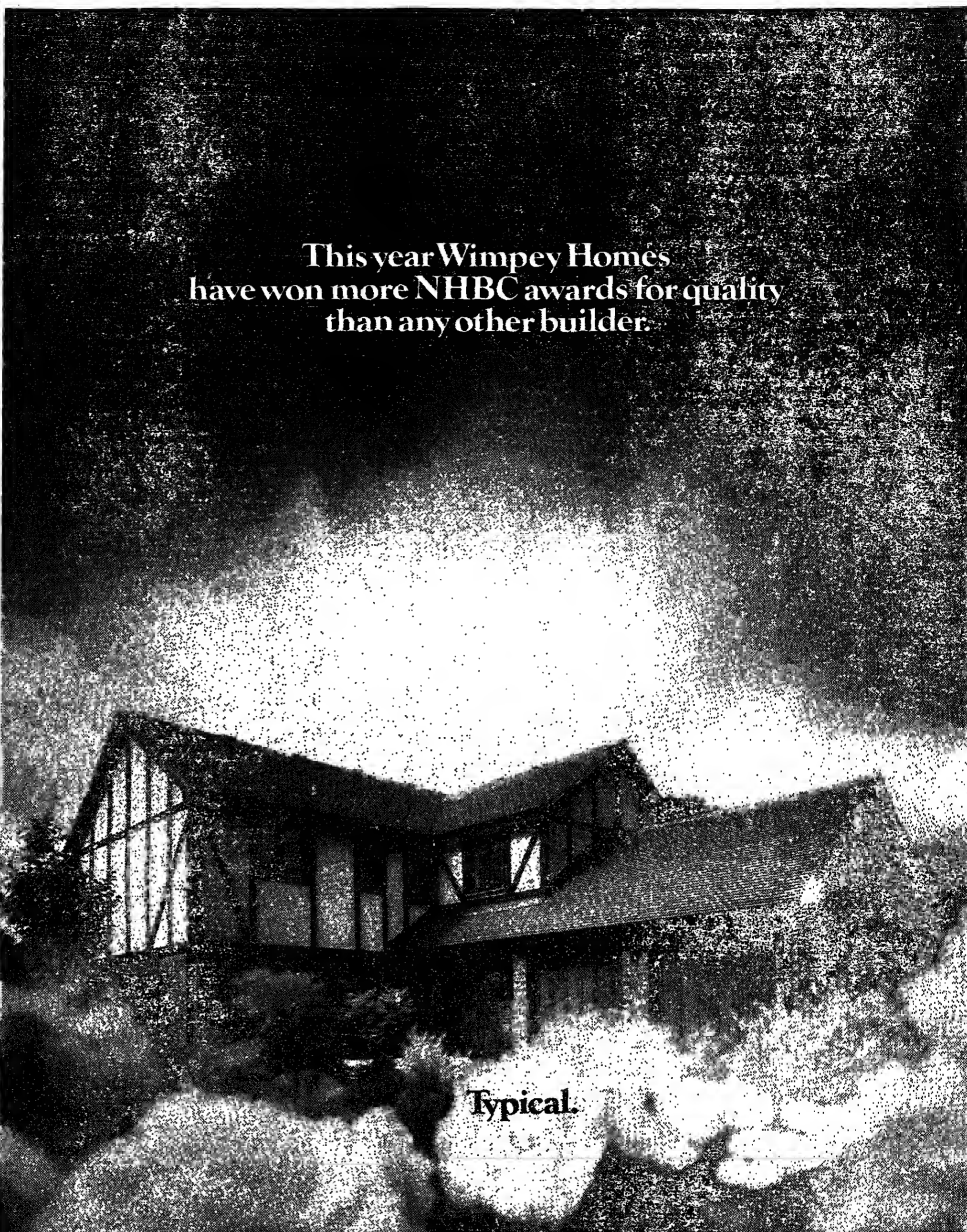
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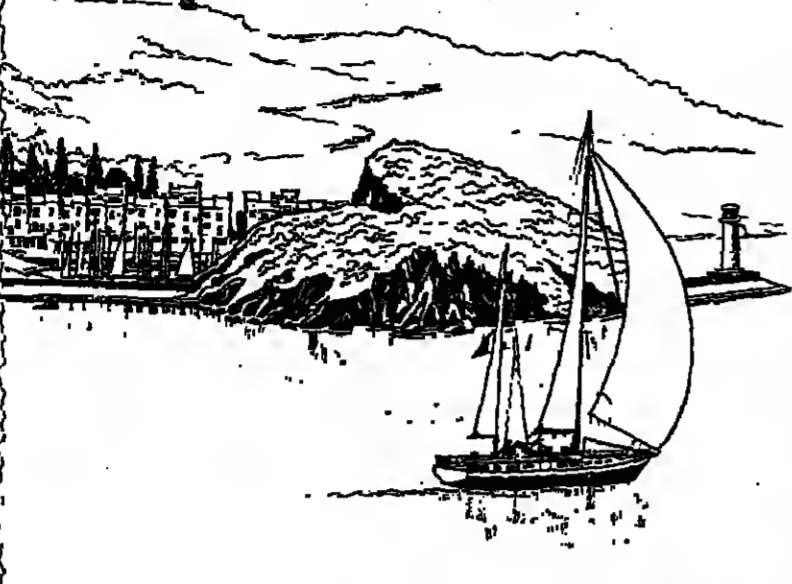
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Law Report November 5 1986

Exchange loss damages foreseeable

Lips Maritime Corporation v President of India. Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Nicholls and Sir Rouseley Cumming-Brace [Judgment October 31].

amounting to £4,658. The award stated that on the date of the bill of exchange...

time was not made and that, therefore, the case came within the second rule in Hadley v Baxendale.

cluded that none of those facts constituted a "special fact communicated by the owner to the charterer which would not have been apparent to any other person in the same trade."

Meaning of report for school closure

Regina v Kirkless Metropolitan Borough Council, Ex parte Molloy. Before Mr Justice Mann [Judgment November 4].

Criminal standard of proof required in committal for contempt

Deborah Building Equipment Ltd v Scalfco Ltd and Another. Before Mr Justice Potts [Judgment October 31].



Getting in grips: William 'Refrigerator' Perry (right) of the Chicago Bears trades blows with Dennis Harrah, Los Angeles Rams, in Monday's Chicago encounter won by the Rams 20-17

Second shock for Coventry as Rugby snap up Thomas

A major row was brewing in the Midlands last night over the Warwickshire flanker, Paul Thomas's "defection" from Coventry to Rugby.

Argentina to compete in sevens

Hong Kong (AFP) - Argentina will return to the Hong Kong international sevens in 1987 after a five-year absence.

Devon are looking for quick return

Devon, whose halcyon years in the county championship were around the turn of the century, set out on Saturday on the road back to the first divisions of the English county game.

Morrow loses his place

Philip Matthews is beyond doubt the finest blind side wing forward in Ireland and if a British Lions side were to be named tonight, it is a near certainty he would claim the No. 6 jersey.

Words in informations

James v Thomas (John Barrie). An information which alleged an offence "contrary to section 6(1) of the Road Traffic Act 1972 as amended" would have been more properly worded "contrary to section 6(1) of the Road Traffic Act 1972 as substituted by section 25(3) of the Transport Act 1981."

YACHTING

Blackaller is blown apart by a Kiss

On a day when White Crusader snatched an epic victory from Canada II, the other big fight-back - but without a fairy-tale ending - was between French Kiss and USA.

Table with columns for STANDINGS, showing results for various teams like America II (US), New Zealand (NZ), etc.

MOD PENTATHLON

Smoothing the road to Seoul

The training grants of £6,000 each to Richard Phelps and Dominic Mahony, awarded this week by the Ministry of Sport, are part of a build-up for the Seoul Olympics, come as a financial and psychological boost not only for the two athletes concerned but for all others in the sport.

Doyle's third

Greenoble (AFP) - A storming attack by the cyclist Tony Doyle 20 minutes before the end of the Greenoble Six gave the Briton and his team a 1-0 lead over France's Roger Moore, victory here on Monday night. They stole a lap from the Franco-Danish team of Bernard Vallet/Gert Frank who had stacked up more points. It was Doyle's third big day win since the season began.

RACING: COMPETITIVE LINE-UP FOR NEWBURY HURDLE

Ten Plus to earn full marks again

With Ten Plus, Bronski, Atrabates, Ibn Majed and Mrs Muck, all standing in their ground at Newbury today for the Tom Mason Trophy...

point out that Mrs Muck has not inappropriately for one with her name, run her best races when there has been plenty of mud flying about.

Results, page 42

Otherwise, it should pay to follow Richard Scudamore as well as the man he succeeded, David Nicholson's first jockey, Peter Scudamore.

NEWBURY

Selections By Mandarin. 1.245 Pecks Place, 1.15 Barrat Oak, 1.45 Voice Of Progress.

Going: good. 1.245 EBF NOVICE HURDLE (Qualifier: £2,000; 2m 100yd) (22 runners)...

1.15 LIONEL TRICKS MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE (£2,981; 3m) (7 runners)...

FORM TRENDS. 1.45 MARSH BENHAM HANDICAP CHASE (£3,211; 3m 4f) (7 runners)...

COURSE SPECIALISTS. TRAINERS, JOCKEYS, Winners, Runners, Per cent.

EDINBURGH

Selections By Mandarin. 1.15 Corriellan, 1.45 Ski Captain, 2.15 Reform Princess...

Going: good. Draw advantage: 5f-1m, high numbers best. 1.15 TENNENTS 80 SHILLING ALE STAKES (3-Y-O; £238; 1m 4f) (11 runners)...

1.45 TENNENTS EXPORT MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (2-Y-O; £295; 5f) (7 runners)...

2.15 TENNENTS NOVEMBER HANDICAP (£1,923; 1m 7f) (17 runners)...

Guide to our in-line racecard

Racecard number, Draw in brackets. Six-figure and distance winner. BF-favourite in last form...

2.15 TOM MASSON TROPHY HURDLE (£3,258; 2m 4f 120yd) (9 runners)...

FORM TRENDS. 2.45 COKETHORPE NOVICE CHASE (£2,477; 2m 4f) (9 runners)...

FORM TRENDS. 3.15 COLD ASH NOVICE HURDLE (3-Y-O; £1,417; 2m 100yd) (15 runners)...

3.45 EBF NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,197; 2m 100yd) (25 runners)...

2.45 TENNENTS SPECIAL SELLING STAKES (£919; 1m) (16 runners)...

3.15 TENNENTS LAGER MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O; £1,808; 1m) (14 runners)...

3.45 LAMOT PILS NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-O; £1,320; 7f) (16 runners)...

COURSE SPECIALISTS. TRAINERS, JOCKEYS, Winners, Runners, Per cent.



The blinkered At Talaq storming clear under Michael Clarke's strong driving in yesterday's Melbourne Cup.

Arab influence spreading as At Talaq triumphs in Australian showpiece

At Talaq probably changed the course of Australian racing history when winning the Melbourne Cup yesterday.

For not only did At Talaq, a 10-1 chance, successfully carry the colours of Sheikh Hamdan...

But then departing for Gaudi, still an apprentice, was harder to bear. Had Clarke been it all philosophically...

Perhaps, the nicest thing about At Talaq's victory was that he represented the incredibly popular trainer Colin Hayes...

But, in spite of his superb record, which has made him something of a national hero...

WOLVERHAMPTON

Selections By Mandarin. 1.30 Aconitum, 2.0 Chalk Walcott, 2.30 Emmanon...

Going: firm good, back straight. 1.30 SIFINAL NOVICE HURDLE (£1,249; 2m) (12 runners)...

2.0 TOWN CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS NOVICE HURDLE (£855; 2m 4f) (12)...

2.30 RACING POST HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,934; 2m) (15)...

Myst... Cecil shooting ahead... Cameron resigns at Lingfield...

The oldest Welsh club looks forward to making history again

By Clive White

Wrexham, the spoilsports, have taken the fun out of their challenge to Real Zaragoza...

Encouragingly, the magnitude of that performance has not meant that concentration on fourth division games has suffered...

man of Welsh football will be welded together and sent out as good as new...

But even McNeill had to admit that the excitement of the occasion has got to him...

Wrexham prepared nicely for tonight's return leg in the second round of the European Cup Winners' Cup...

They will be lighting the bonfires from Colwyn Bay to Cardiff if Wrexham can satisfy an expectant crowd...

Real will gamble on attack

By Stuart Jones Football Correspondent

Leo Beenhakker is preparing to gamble here tonight on the temperaments of his unpredictable players...

Although Real held only a 1-0 lead as they kicked the second leg of the second round against Juventus...

"The great teams of Madrid always played with three forwards," he says, "Remember Puskas, Di Stefano and Gento in the sixties..."

"There could be a time when I might use only two up front but that is not the way I like to play...

There could be more insubstantial areas than the Stadie Communale in which to test the strength of his honourable convictions...

Little has yet been seen of the Italian strike force and particularly of Platini...

The prospect is fascinating enough to fill the concrete stands for the first time...

Aitken holds the key to victory

By Hugh Taylor

Celtic are delaying the announcement of their team to play Dynamo Kiev in the second leg of their European Cup tie...

Although Celtic face perhaps the most intimidating task in their illustrious history in European competition...

There is a suspicion that the Celtic midfield player, Paul McGarry, is still only 22, but not fulfilled his potential...

There is a suspicion that the Celtic midfielder, Paul McGarry, is still only 22, but not fulfilled his potential...

Between them, this central defensive pairing leaves over 100 European appearances...

With the experienced Richard Gough now at Tottenham, United's back four for today's game...

Facing a handicap

From a Special Correspondent

Dundee United are forced to face the Romanian side, Universitatea Craiova, in the second leg of their second round UEFA Cup tie...

Yesterday's racing results

Leicester 11.20 (m) 1. PRIME NUMBER (T Quinn, 10-12)...



Over to you, partner: Francesco Moser, of Italy, hands a winning lead to British colleague, Tony Doyle (left), for the last lap of the Grenoble six-day cycle race in the French Alps

Slaloming on Berlin rubble hill

SKIING

Berlin (AP) — A World Cup slalom ski race will be held on December 28 on a 396-foot West Berlin 'mountain' that originated from a heap of Second World War rubble...

Sport in need of extra £4 million

The Sports Council is calling for a £4 million increase from the Government in order to meet its budget for 1987/88...

Victim of success

ATHLETICS

New York (AP) — The success of the New York City Marathon has created a problem, according to Fred Lebow, the race director...

King knocks Parrott off his perch

SNOOKER

John Parrott, from Liverpool, became the first major casualty of the Dubai British Open tournament at Solihull yesterday...

Injury forces out Lendl

TENNIS

John McEnroe's withdrawal from this week's European Community Championship (ECC) in Antwerp...

Spectators follow the stars

MOTOR RALLYING

Each one of the 45 special stages on this year's Lombard Rally is a test of the driver's skills...

Sedgfield

Football

1.30 (m) 1. First Session (P. Wood, 7-9)...

Dittmar has to struggle to beat Harvey

SQUASH RACKET'S

Toulous (AFP) — Chris Dittmar, the former world No. 2, had to battle for an hour and a half to beat John Harvey...

ICC will not ban English players linked to S Africa

CRICKET

By Paul Mansell

The International Cricket Conference (ICC), which ended its special meeting in Delhi yesterday, has refused to ban English players who have taken part in international cricket...

ICC secretary, Jack Bailey, said that in a debate on cricketers who are currently playing or coaching in South Africa...

ICC secretary, Jack Bailey, said that in a debate on cricketers who are currently playing or coaching in South Africa...

Hanley waits for specialist advice

RUGBY LEAGUE

For several weeks now, the injured knee of Ebery Hanley has been a source of considerable concern to the players, Wigan, and Great Britain...

Guile of Price overcomes forceful Poole

BOWLS

By a Special Correspondent

Even in a game as traditional as bowls there are successful initiatives and innovations...

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